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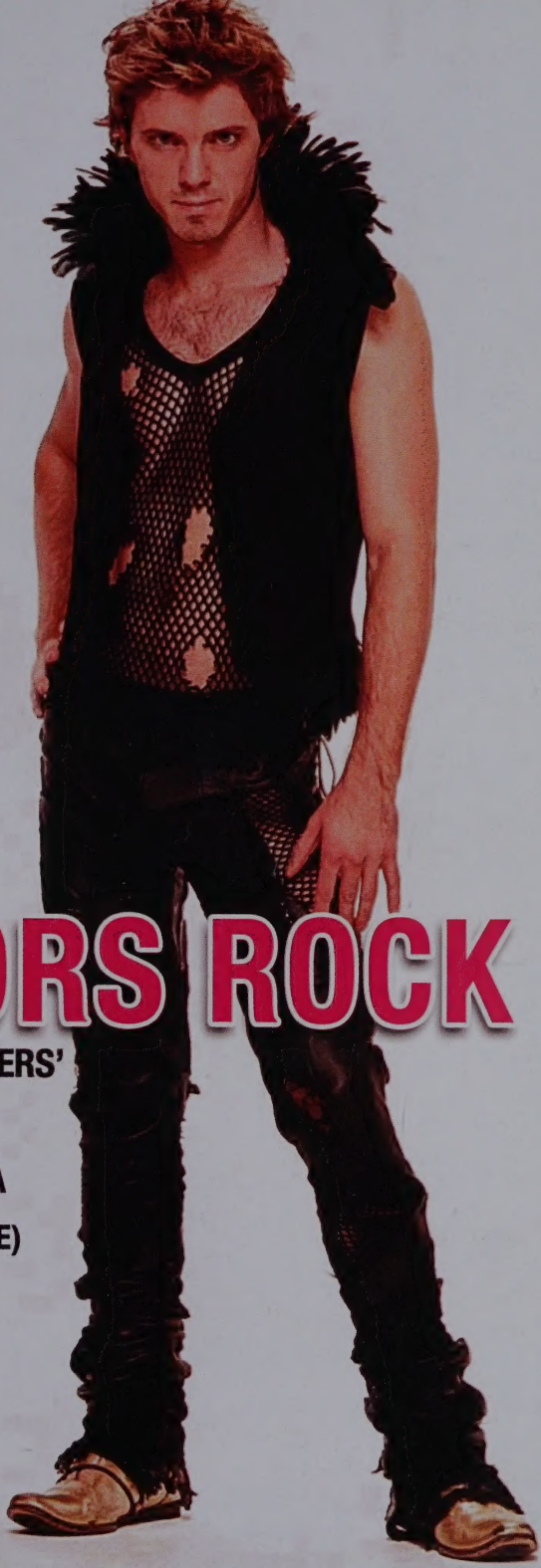

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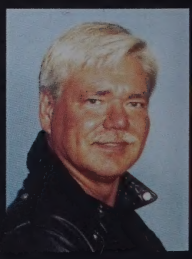

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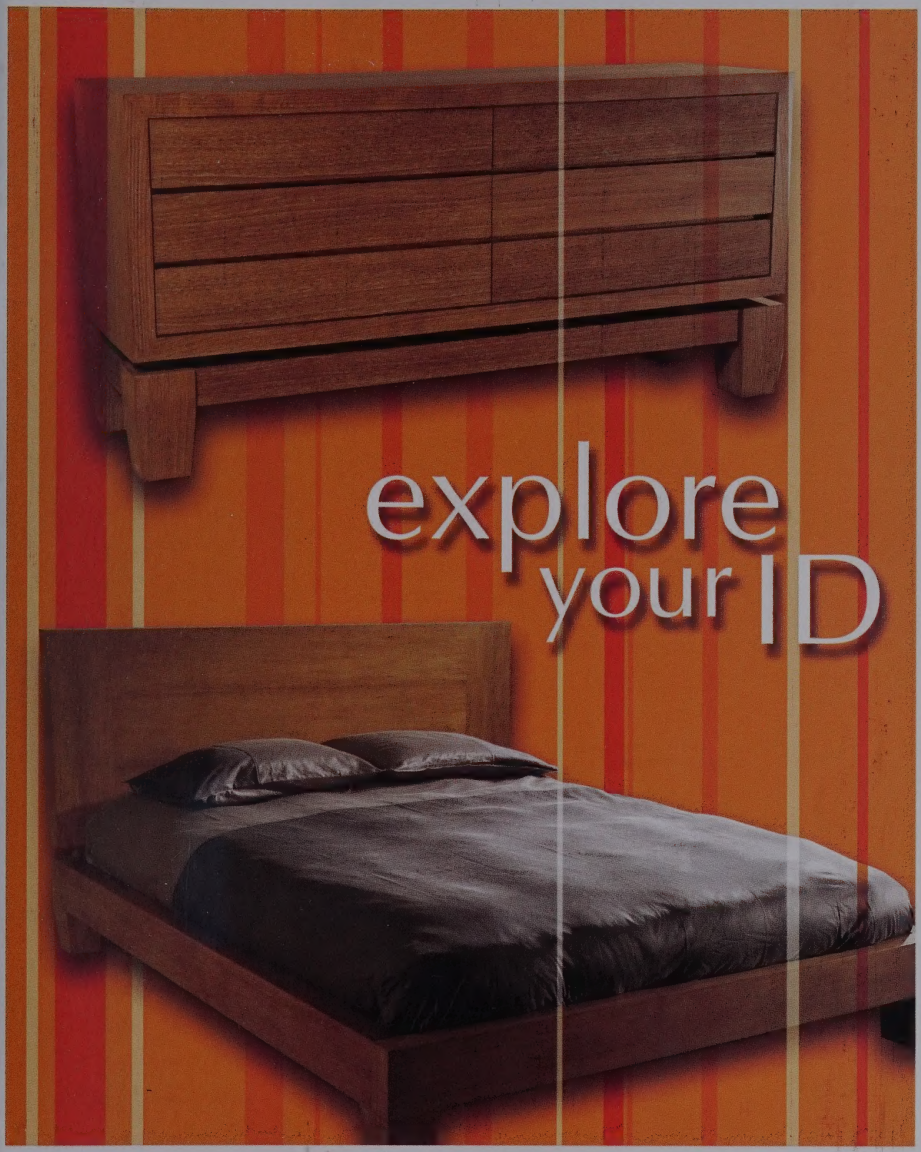

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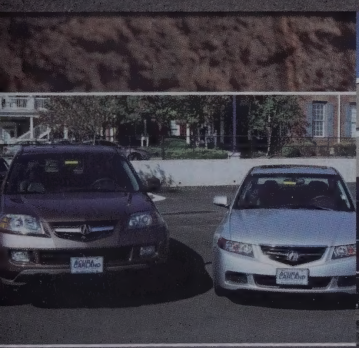

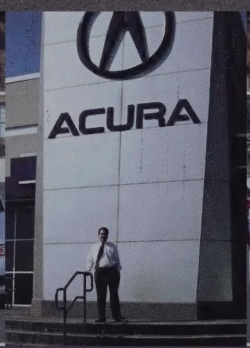

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EDITOR'SNOTE

MADONNA GAVE ME MONO.

OK, I know I can't specifically prove that I picked up my recent bout of mononucleosis from Mrs. Ritchie herself. I do know my symptoms ramped up dramatically after seeing her "Re-Infection" — er, I mean — "Re-Invention Tour."

It's not like we swapped spit, the most common way to get this nasty little bug. For one thing, I was perched way up in the rafters (good thing I sprung for the $90 seats, otherwise we would have been watching from a broom closet in the CNNenEspañol office), so I probably didn't inhale Madonna's same carbon dioxide molecules, let alone her saliva.

But, had we traded bodily fluids of some sort, I'm fairly certain she *could* have given me mono. She was on national TV licking tonsils with Christina Aguilera, so there's no telling what a person could catch from her. Kabbalah don't cure the clap.

Really I'm just struggling for answers, trying to figure out where I did get this malaise. It's not like I've been kissing anyone other than my boyfriend, who remains symptom-free. And what's the fun of having mono if you didn't get to make out with strangers beforehand?

There's no real treatment, other than lots of fluids and plenty of rest. P.S., it also means your social life goes straight to hell. I've become about as popular as Dick Cheney, and that's on one of my better days. The problem: I just tire out so easily. I meet friends for dinner and halfway through I need a nap. Either that, or I need new friends. (Just kidding, guys. Really. Call me.)

The one good thing about having mono is that it's given me plenty of time to lie around my house — often moaning, but sometimes silent — and think about my life. It's also let me finally listen to the stack of CDs that had piled up in the corner, review copies mostly from artists you've never heard of. There were some keepers (I adore the new k.d. lang, though in my current state her melancholy vocals leave me borderline suicidal) as well as some major crap.

My favorite discovery, though, happens to be the band that graces our cover this week, Scissor Sisters. Part Bee Gees, part Bowie, but with a dash of Fischerspooner mixed in for attitude. Actually the band reminds me a lot of Human League, which I adored as a child. My co-worker Paul pointed out that the Sisters' publicity photo proves they've spent years studying the League's "Fascination" video, trying to nail that same level of disaffection. (Here's a hint, guys: If you really want to look disaffected, get mono. You won't give a shit about anything.)

But there's also something about Scissor Sisters that evokes — oddly enough — early Madonna. It's their certain kiss-off attitude, not to mention that the group is already facing Stateside censorship. Try as she might, the Material Mom just isn't pushing the envelope these days. The Scissor Sisters, with all their retro vim and vigor, at least are repackaging the past in a fresh way. In this issue, Arjan Timmermans interviews the Sisters' out lead singer Jake Shears, who calls his band "brilliant."

Also this week, Jim Farmer talks with director Spike Lee about his new dyke-centric flick, "She Hate Me." Jimmy Hilburn catches up with another filmmaker, Atlantan Michael McAllister, who's co-directed a musical inspired by the Matthew Shepard murder. And Christopher Brandon delves into the timely topic of who's hot at the Olympics.

I can tell that my boyfriend is getting tired of my illness, and is ready for us to be social again. He's been pacing around the bedroom, saying things like, "I'm going to dump you if you don't get better soon."

He's kidding (I hope!), but I'm still starting to worry. Mono can last six or seven weeks, I'm told, and we're just now wrapping up week four. I know he misses the old days, when we used to have friends and do fun things like go to concerts. Of course, that's what got me into this mess to begin with. Thanks a lot, Madge.

TRAYB

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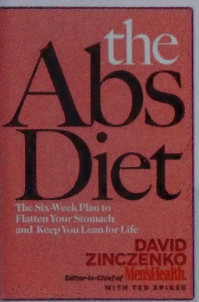
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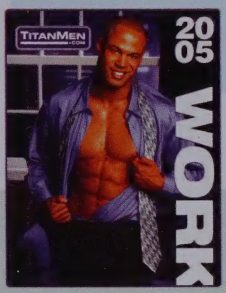

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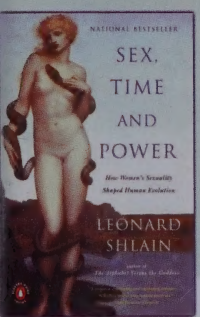

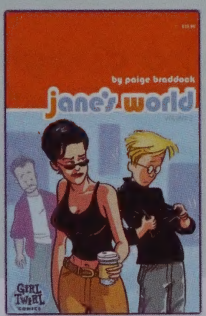

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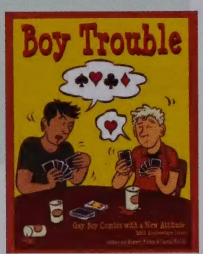

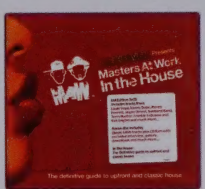

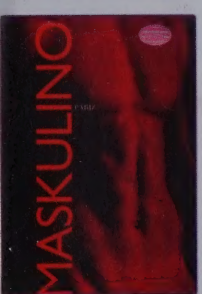

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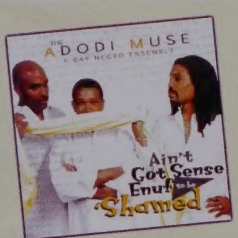

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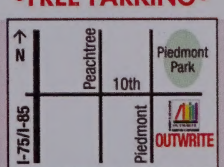

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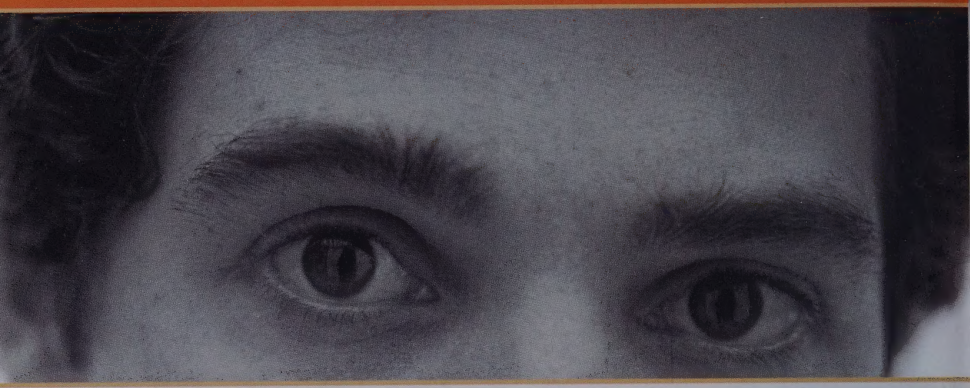
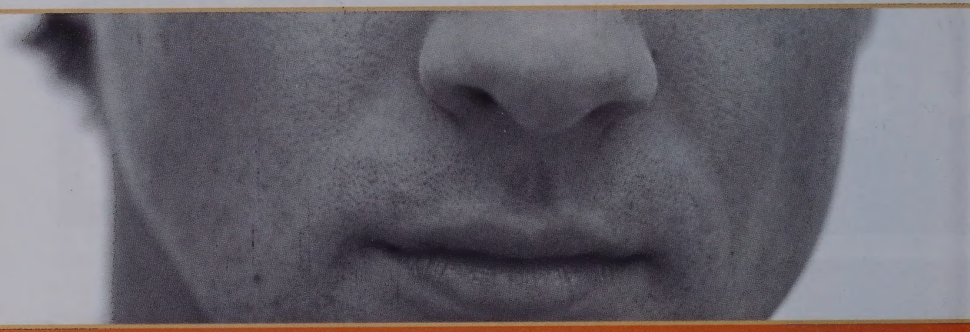


I know someone who disagrees.



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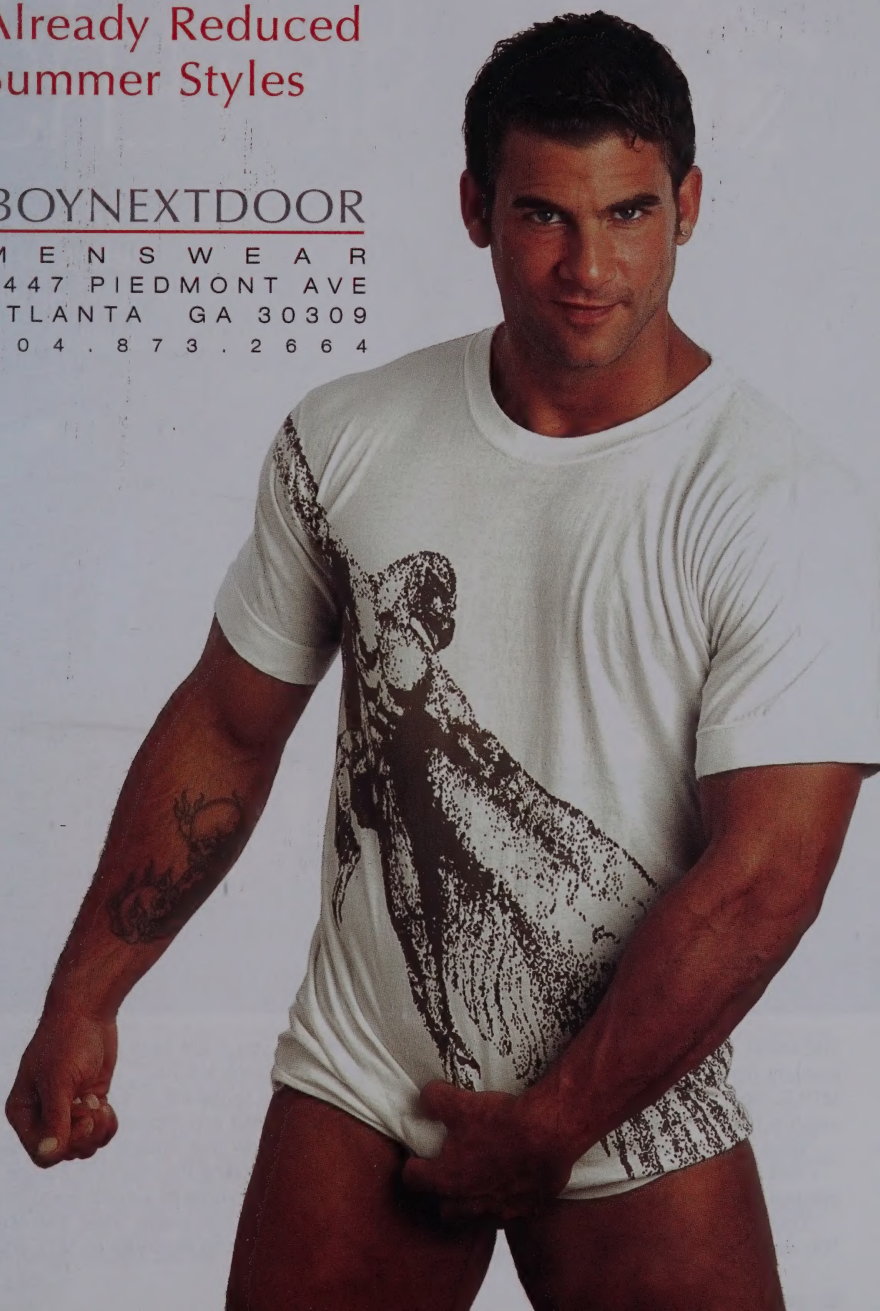

Jake Shears

TWISTED SISTERS

Jake Shears, the lead singer of **Scissor Sisters**, on being out, eating carbs and why Wal-Mart banned his debut album

UNIVERSAL/KAREN MOBRIDE

THE FIRST TIME I CALLED JAKE SHEARS, I caught him preparing for an interview with MTV Europe. He politely asked me if I could call him back another time.

"What day is today?" he asked.

I told him it was Saturday and that I could call him back the day after.

"Oh that would so much better," he said. "Oh wait, I'm on a plane somewhere. Not sure when, but you might have to try it a few times. What time zone are you?"

Welcome to the life of a rising rock star — hectic, intense and impossible to plan. Especially now that Shears' band, Scissor Sisters, is topping the charts in Europe and seems on the verge of a major breakthrough in the U.S. Their first single "Take Your Mama" has gotten mucho exposure on MTV and VH-1.

Shears, the flamboyant gay lead singer of Scissor Sisters, takes the pressures of being a rock star in stride when he talks about shuttling between his home in New York and the UK, where the band has been burning up the charts.

"Life has been very intense the last few months, but that's because we're totally brilliant" smirks Shears, aka Jason Sellards (Shears is a stage name — get it?). "Jetlag hasn't been affecting me that much, but I've definitely been living an early bird life."

Del Marquis (left), Ana Matronic, Jake Shears, Paddy Boom and Babydaddy of Scissor Sisters

Anticipation about the band's future in the U.S. is mounting, but Shears tries to keep two feet on the ground.

"Our success in the UK has been so over the top that I'm not really worried about what is going to happen in the States," he says. "We're very excited that the record has come out and we look forward to our U.S. tour in the fall. It has been fun and we don't take anything for granted."

The sound of Scissor Sisters on their self-titled debut album can be described as Elton John meets Pink Floyd meets Fischerspooner. The band has already collaborated with some of its own heroes, including Duran Duran, Elton John, The B-52s and the Pet Shop Boys.

Inspired by The B-52s and rockers like Richard O'Brien (the man behind "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"), the band's music was born out of taking pleasure in playing and jamming, explains Shears. "It was all about our own satisfaction," he says. "There was no big idea. Our sound came about totally naturally."

Shears is openly gay as are some of the other group's members. He says he never made a conscious decision about being out.

"This is just who I am," he says. "It is funny because people always ask me the gay question, but in Europe nobody cares. It's all about the music and performance. I hope that people will see us as a rock 'n' roll band, not a queer band."

He believes that his homosexuality might be an obstacle in the U.S., and hopes that fans at home will embrace the band the same as in Europe.

"Our music speaks to everybody," he says. "It could happen that people might end up not giving a shit."

Wal-Mart, the largest music retailer in the States, does seem to care. The company banned the Scissor Sisters album from its shelves when it was released late last month.

"I think it is a little bit scary and hypocritical," Shears says. "You can buy violent games like 'Manhunt' for your PlayStation, but can't buy music at Wal-Mart with the word 'shit' in it."

The group does not feel obligated to edit their music for its mature content. Their song "Return to Oz" has a particular dark meaning and relevance to gay listeners, with lyrics dealing with the effects of crystal meth addiction. Shears notes that the drug has a devastating impact on some, but is coy about making any additional statements about the song.

"I hate to dissect my lyrics," he explains. "I write about what is going on around me and my life. It's just a feeling. People can interpret lyrics in a lot of different ways."

Shears is also quickly becoming a sex symbol across the pond with his theatrical antics often showing off his tight upper body. The constant travelling does not seem to wear on the singer's physique.

"It's not a low-carb diet that keeps me in shape," he laughs. "Jumping around every night on stage is the best work out."

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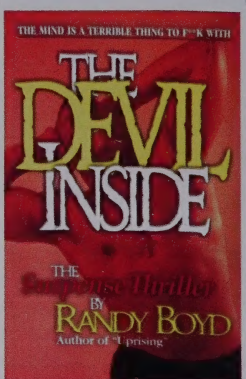

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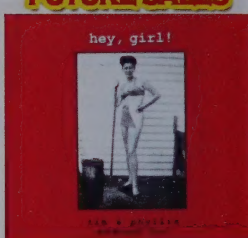

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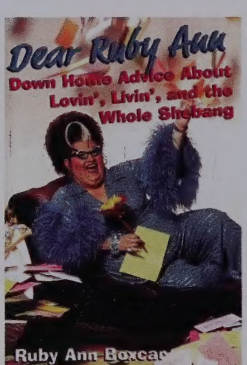

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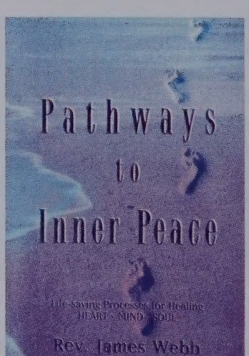

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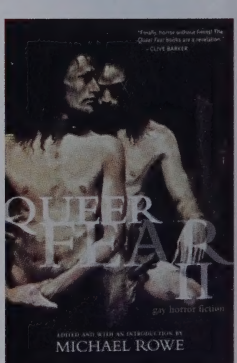

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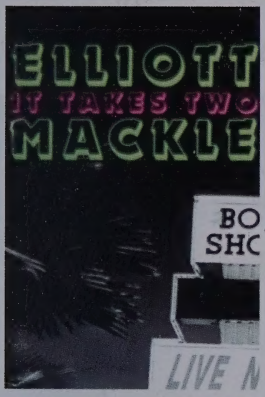

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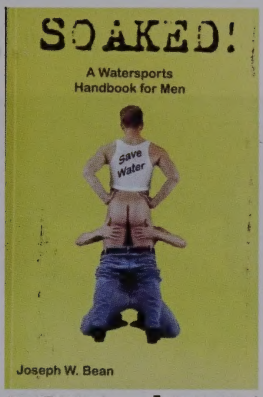

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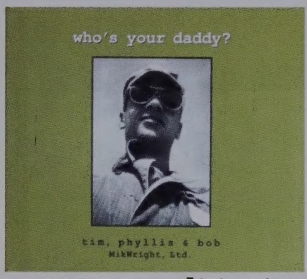

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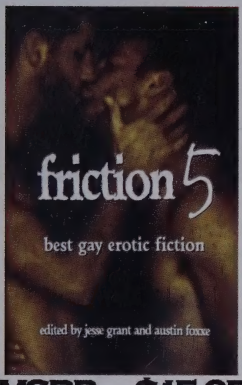

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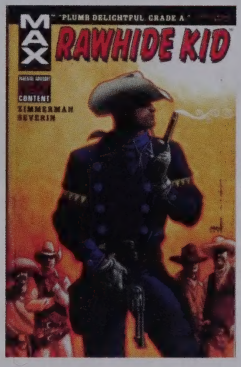

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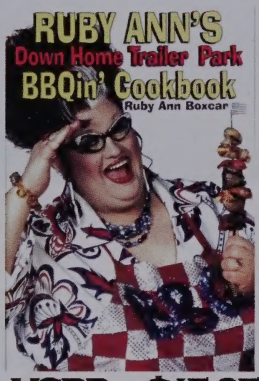

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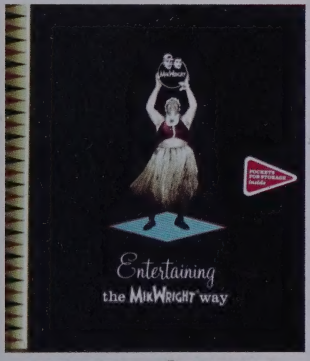

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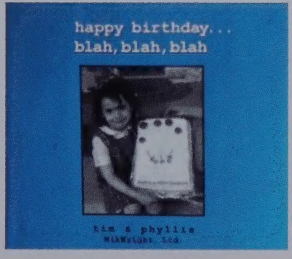

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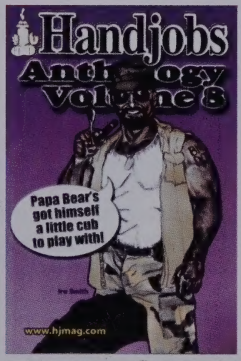

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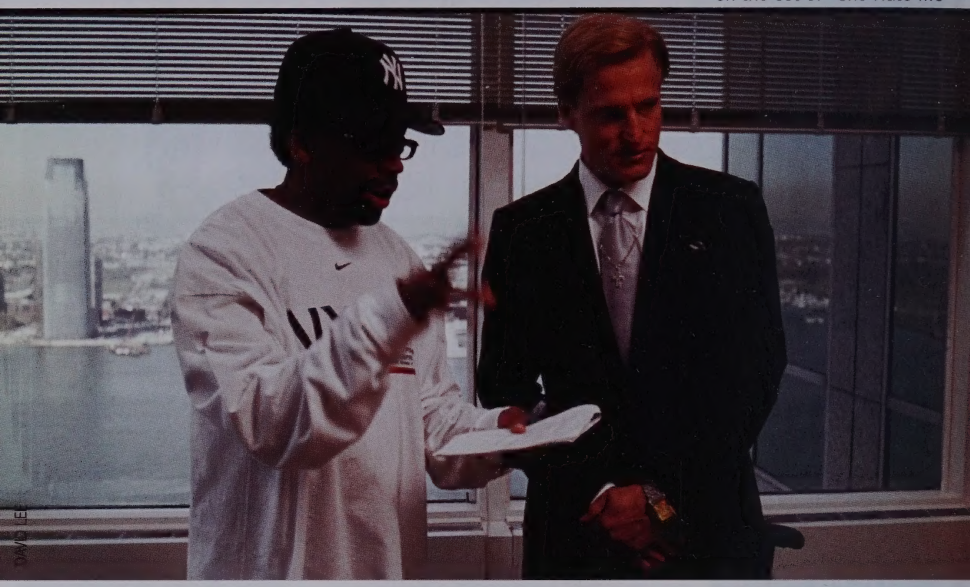


Spike Lee (left) and Woody Harrelson on the set of "She Hate Me"

DAVID LEE

Spike Lee, director of 'She Hate Me,' on ethics, Martha's millions and getting lesbians right

SPIKE LEE SMILED TO HIMSELF when he picked up a recent copy of the *New York Times* and saw two front-page features — one an article about Martha Stewart and the other about same-sex marriages.

Lee's sprawling new film "She Hate Me" deals with a number of such hot-button issues, among them corporate greed and the desire of many gay couples to have children. After blowing the whistle on his bosses at a biotech firm looking to launch what they call an AIDS drug, Jack Armstrong (Anthony Mackie) has his life unravel. Finding himself unemployable and frozen out of his own funds, he takes up an offer from his former girlfriend Fatima (Kerry Washington). Now in a lesbian relationship, Fatima wants Jack to impregnate both her and her lover. With that a success, Fatima brings over more of her friends. And then more. Without a job, Jack becomes essentially a sperm donor for child-hungry lesbians.

Kerry Washington

Lee and Washington were in Atlanta recently to promote the film. The director is no stranger to controversy, with fare such as "Do the Right Thing," "She's Gotta Have It" and "Jungle Fever" under his belt. Some have theorized that the film's two plots here belong in separate movies, but the director defends his decision.

"I think there is a big connection between the two," Lee says. "Who says a film has to have one story line? I think they are connected because they deal with ethics, morals, value systems. What

happens when individuals are put in a spot where they have to compromise their scruples.

"Look at Martha Stewart," he says. "I know there are times when she spent more than $50,000 on an antique chair. What would make her risk a hundred million dollars, her good name and a prison term? Whatever the reason — that is the connection. One's a big corporate decision; the other is more personal."

The character of Jack impregnates the first set of women out of financial need, but begins to give second thoughts to his new career.

"He is put in a spot where it's all about survival," says Lee. "He would never had done that if he had a job. But over the course of time, he realizes how spiritually and ethically draining it is. He starts to wonder if he is doing the right thing by bringing all these children into the world."

Lee says the main character would have had the same reaction regardless of the women's sexual orientation. To make sure that the lesbians in the film came across authentically, Lee hired author Tristan Taormino (an editor from "On Our Backs" magazine) as an adviser.

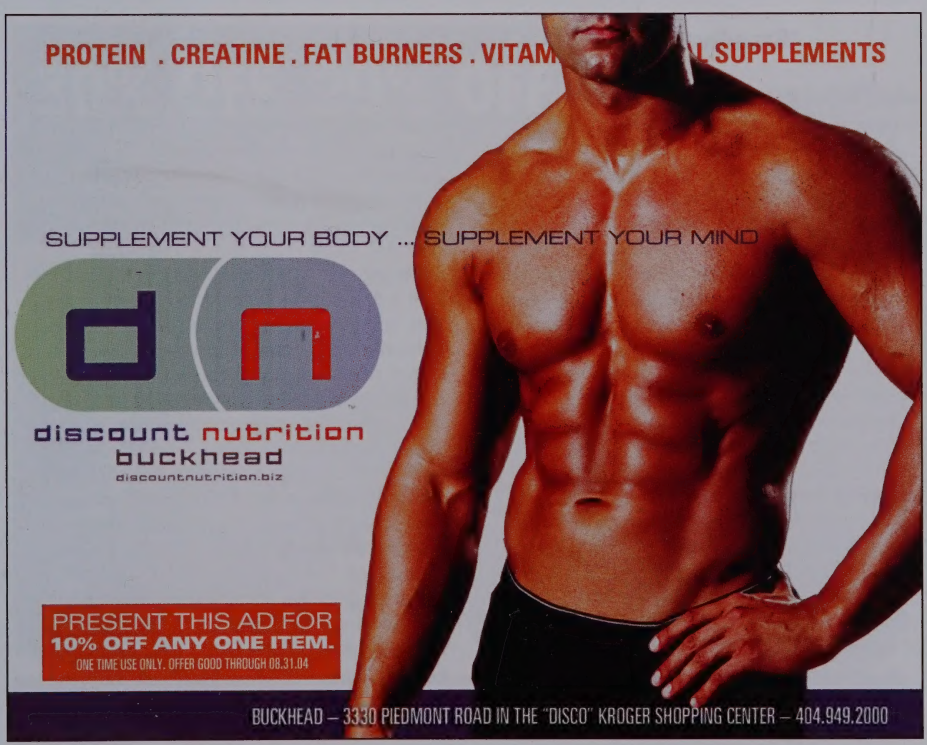
"Tristan is very well respected and she worked with me on the script. Obviously, as a director, I'm not going to ask anyone about their orientation when I cast them. I hired Tristan to work with the actresses for a few weeks. We called it our Lesbian Boot Camp."

In person, Washington proves to be much more than a generic ingénue. She's very outspoken about her beliefs and admits her entire family has always been political. The battle over anti-gay legislation is one that rattles her.

"I hate all the talk that is going on. If gays can't have the right to marry, then what next? Are blacks the next disenfranchised part of society?" she says.

"She Hate Me" marks Washington's first time portraying a lesbian, as well as her first same-sex love scene. She had no qualms with either, and found Taormino's assistance with the film invaluable.

"I didn't really have any misconceptions about lesbians going in, but Tristan was very helpful," Washington says. "She talked to us a lot and brought in people so that the women we portrayed would seem real."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Rick McKay and Carol Channing

'Broadway: The Golden Age' a tedious tour of stage talent

WHAT'S THE GAYEST PLACE ON EARTH? Broadway, of course.

So it should come as no surprise that the new documentary "Broadway: The Golden Age" is filled with famous fairies. Look, there's Bob Fosse and Cole Porter. Here comes Charles Nelson Reilly talking out the side of his face. And over there is theater critic Rex Reed, the biggest queen of them all.

Those are just a few of the million faces that appear in this ingratiating film, an overlong account of Broadway's superstars told by the people who were there. It's a two-hour tournament of talking heads that becomes tedious fast.

Filmmaker Rick McKay spent five years gathering interviews with living legends like Stephen Sondheim, Carol Burnett, Bea Arthur, Angela Lansbury, and more. The doc delves deep into the stories behind luminaries like Shirley MacLaine, Robert Goulet, and Kim Stanley. This may just be the largest collection of old people in a single film since "Cocoon."

In between these legendary heads, McKay intersperses grainy footage of old Broadway performances. But he insists that the viewer already be familiar with each and every show, which sadly makes this documentary for hardcore Broadway queens only.

The rest of us are left confused by the absence of historical context and, worse, bored by what seems like endless stories from folks we barely recognize. A voice-over narration attempts to provide some structure with a first-person account of his own arrival in New York. But he forgets to tell us his name!

McKay does manage to unveil a few choice bits of trivia. Several of these famed singers and dancers discuss congregating at local drug stores to exchange audition notices, and Shirley MacLaine claims to have uttered the first "shit" on stage. Accidentally, of course. And it's hard to muck up an appearance by Carol Channing, who may actually be a gay man buried beneath those ubiquitous black glasses.

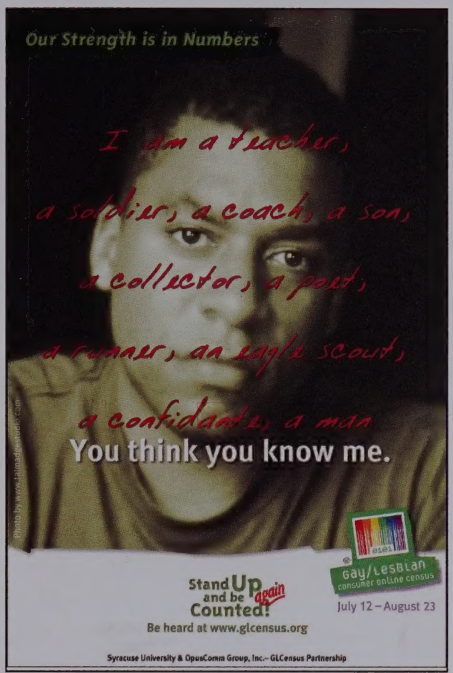
For 90 minutes, McKay aims his single camera at all these famous faces and blows so much smoke up Broadway's ass, Times Square can no longer be seen. Then finally, his documentary provides some real insight about the American institution. During the last 20

minutes, we're offered a glimpse of what made Broadway memorable from the arrival of Marlon Brando's raw acting skills to the magic of "West Side Story's" opening night.

In the film's best part — and the only portion that provides any meaty historical significance — we learn that Broadway's Golden Age ended with the arrival or rock operas like "Hair" and "Jesus Christ Superstar." Thanks to emerging backstage technology, canned music and skyrocketing ticket prices, Broadway would never be the same. While it's only hinted at, the truth is that Andrew Lloyd Weber killed Broadway, but an amateur documentarian like McKay doesn't have the balls to actually say so.

If you manage to stay awake to the end credits, you'll learn that several of the people interviewed for this film have died during the last four years. It's a shame such a shitty documentary serves as their final legacy.

Rick McKay appears Aug. 20-21 at the 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. screenings of "Broadway: The Golden Age." Landmark Midtown Art Cinema, 404-872-5796.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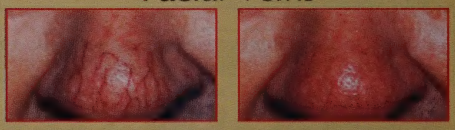

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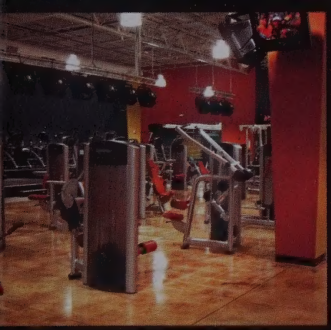

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TELEVISION BY CHRISTOPHER BRANDON

An opinionated guide to the hottest sights in Athens

WHO SAYS GAY GUYS DON'T LIKE SPORTS?

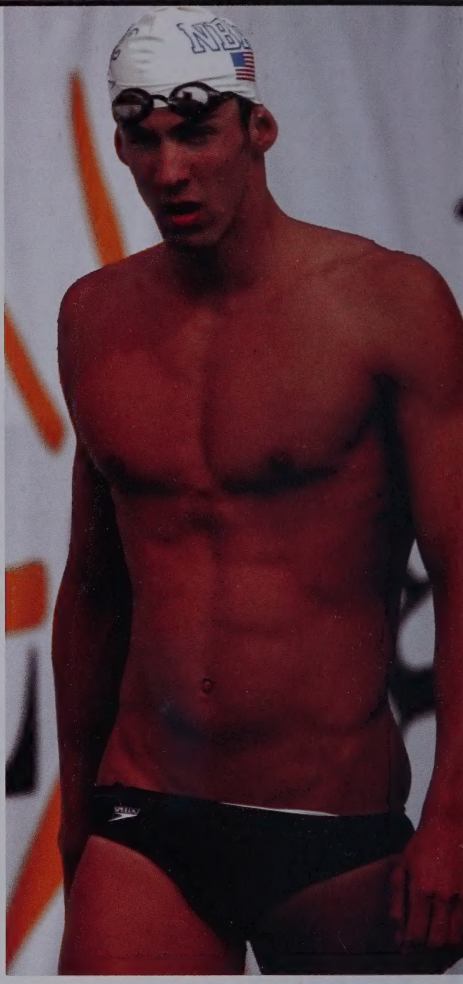
That common misconception gets shattered every four years when athletes from around the world compete in the Summer Olympics, and queers across the nation are glued to their TV — not to mention, scouring the Internet for hot locker room pics.

What's not to love about the Olympics? Russian gymnasts kissing each other on the lips. Half-naked swimmers with washboard abs. International soccer stars ripping off their shirts after scoring a goal. It's better than porn.

This year's Games are taking place in Athens, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympics, and sadly America doesn't stand a chance to dominate. We're missing key athletes on the track thanks to a doping scandal that rocked the nationals, and our cocky basketball team may be better at bragging than scoring three-pointers. Plus, our soccer team failed to even qualify.

But if gold medals were awarded for hottest athletes, America would sweep the field. Thanks to years of training, we've got chiseled hunks in every event. As usual at the Games, there are two sports that offer the most eye candy: swimming and gymnastics. When these athletes enter the stadium, you don't want to miss a single meet.

Here are my picks for the hottest athletes to watch at the Summer Olympics:



The most buzzed about athlete at this year's Games is U.S. swimming star Michael Phelps. This 19-year-old swimmer with a tight bod and big gorgeous grin is 100 percent grade A, all-American hottie. Before the Games even began, he already held three world records, and he's competing in eight events in Athens. His biggest competition comes from another hunk, Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe.

In a sport dominated by great bodies, it's tough to pick just one. So here's another hottie from America's swimming team, Brendan Hanson. Michael Phelps may be America's Golden Boy, but Hanson earns our Silver Medal.

) R: Troy Dumais (Athoc/A. Beltes); Michael Phelps w.michaelphelpsonline.com); Blaine Wilson (www.aristoi.org); y Roddick (NASDAQ/Alan Perlman)

This 23-year-old from Texas with a thicker frame and rugged looks broke two world records at the U.S. Olympic trials. Look for him to compete in two events at the Games.

Like swimming, gymnastics is a sport filled with hotties. But we give a perfect 10 to U.S. men's Captain Blaine Wilson. At 30 years old, this veteran gymnast has already competed in two Olympics. Thanks to years of training, he has a muscular frame complemented by movie star good looks. Get an eyeful now because this may be his last year competing in the Games.

Most gay men are probably already familiar with tennis star Andy Roddick, who's been named one of the sexiest athletes in the world by numerous magazines including *U.S. Weekly* and *Sports Illustrated*. At the Olympics, he gets a chance to even the score with Wimbledon champ Roger Federer. No worries, Andy. In the looks department, you win by a long shot.

The world champion in one of sports' most demanding events is 27-year-old athlete Tom Pappas, a Greek-American stud with a long, lanky body and the stamina of a horse. At the Games, he'll be competing for title of "world's greatest athlete," aka "world's greatest hunk."

Two brothers in Speedos? Competing in synchronized diving? This may just be the gayest moment at the Summer Olympics. Justin Dumais, age 26, and his brother Troy, age 24, hail from Los Angeles, and they'll be twisting and turning in perfect synch on their way into the water. Gay fantasies don't get much better than that.

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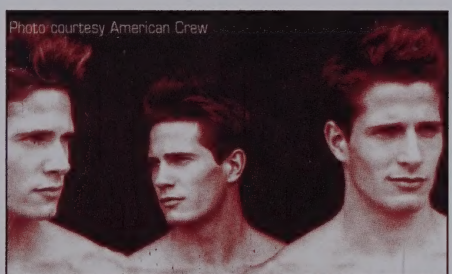

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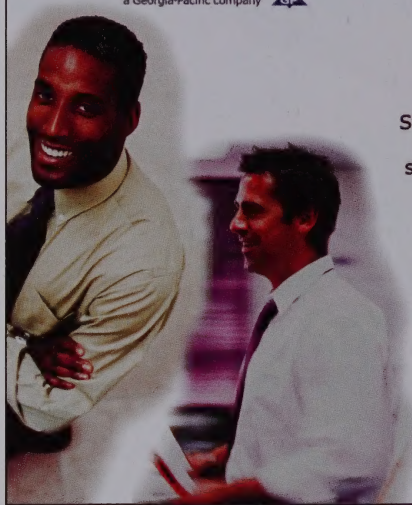

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MICHAEL McALLISTER

Atlanta filmmaker **premieres new musical** at gay film fest

THERE SEEMS TO BE A DEARTH OF MUSICALS about hate crimes, but Michael McAllister is doing his best to fill that void. He and co-director Jonathan Harris will premiere their first feature-length musical, "Last Ride," this month at the North Carolina Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. "Last Ride" is a fictional interpretation of Matthew Shepard's murder, with the unusual twist of being set to music.

***David*: Tell me about the story of "Last Ride."**

Michael McAllister: It's about a young gay man who is searching for love and acceptance in the world. He expresses himself through singing and music. He unfortunately falls in love with his fantasy man who is a straight man, and ends up paying the ultimate price for his love.

It's not a film about hate crimes. It's really about Matthew and his search for love and acceptance. I think everyone relates to it in that way. "Last Ride" was created as a response to violence. Films like this need to be created, whether they are musicals or not.

Why did you decide to make this a musical?

I thought that this would be a great way for a character to express emotions. When you listen to music it goes into a different place, through your mind and to your heart directly. You can express deep emotional concepts. It's recorded in your mind in a different place.

Even the killers express themselves musically, mostly through dance. There's something poetic to that as well. While what these characters did was monstrous, they may or may not be monsters. We don't shy away from what the two antagonists' relationship was with each other. Whether there may have been some repressed homosexual tendencies,

VITAL STATS

NAME: Michael McAllister
OCCUPATION: Filmmaker
AGE: 35
HOMETOWN: Charlotte, N.C.
RELATIONSHIP STATUS: happily partnered for 14 years

which caused them to act out violently. I feel strongly that's why this happened. At least in our story, it is why.

How closely does "Last Ride" follow the Matthew Shepard story?

It does follow certain patterns of Matthew's last few days, but we took a lot of artistic license. It was inspired by Matthew's love and bravery. He's a human being, and he's fallible. He's looking for love in all the wrong places, but he has every right to be in those places.

What genre of musical would you call this?

It's all over the map. We know Matthew was a big fan of techno, so some of the songs have a techno feel — some of them have an '80s feel. There are also huge country Western dance numbers that we did over at Hoedowns. Southern Line, which is their dance troop, performed in the film and helped us learn the dances.

Was it all filmed in Atlanta?

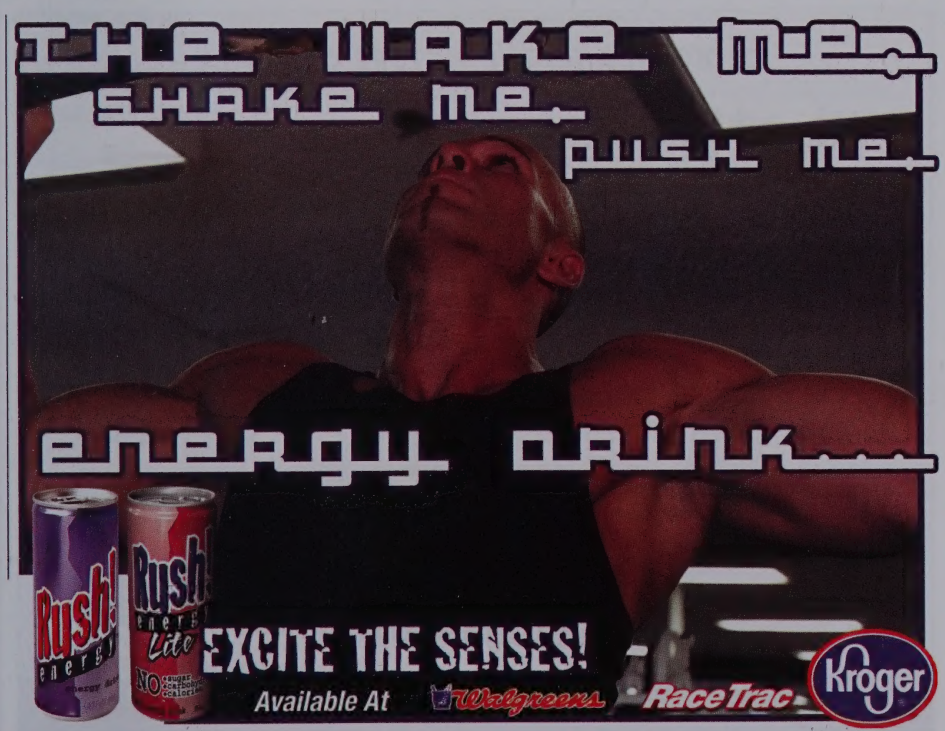
Most of it was. And then we filmed a fantasy dance number on the side of a mountain in Highlands, N.C. One of the benefits about filming in Atlanta is that, since there aren't a tremendous amount of productions done here, then it's a new thing. So you can pretty much get anything you want for free. It was a very low-budget feature. I was a student at Georgia State at the time, so I got all of the high definition equipment for free. We could get a location like Hoedowns for four days for no charge at all. And I really thank them for that.

Any scandalous scenes for us to look forward to?

One of the most talked about scenes is a fantasy one of the bad guys has. It's a bondage scene. It's going into what his ideal world would be like if he could sexually do anything that he wanted to do and be as free as gay people are.

Are there plans for an Atlanta screening?

We've submitted to Out On Film, which is in the fall. But we haven't heard back yet, so we don't know. There are also talks about doing a theatrical release in Atlanta in one of the local theaters.



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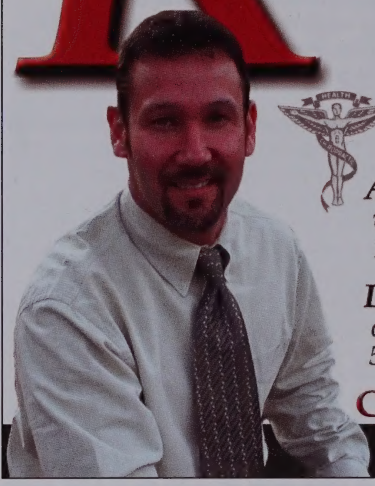

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Your friendship taught us just how unique you really were. And in passing, I know no one can, or ever will, come close to capturing the character that was YOU.

From Twizzlers to palm trees. Etch-a-Sketch to nuns who'd shame any convent. Marilyn pics to Titan flics. Flamingos to holiday decorations beyond suburbia. And friends sitting down to a meal you cooked. You could do it all.

Rest now my friend. You fought hard till the end. And in knowing you your last minutes were probably spent on making sure everyone was ok …"Grandma" was the perfect name for you.

I know God has a bigger plan … A scheme beyond our wildest imaginations. A celestial Circuit … Heavens Dance.

And he wants it… Typical Barry.

ONCE MORE INTO THE BLEACH

You sang along with her tapes in the '80s, matured beautifully with her into the '90s and watched her reemergence in the 21st century. And now you can see her live on Aug. 20. Blondie, fronted by the fabulous Debbie Harry, will perform their chart-toppers during On the Bricks concert series. Glass-hearted Harry continues to kick ass well beyond her prime. The Psychadelic Furs and Derby also perform.
Centennial Olympic Park. Aug. 20, 6 p.m. $5. 404-870-0532. www.onthebricks.com.

Classic songs, cute performers and a rainbow-colored coat. What's not to love about the Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice classic **"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"**? The biblical spectacle reaches divine proportions on the Fox stage beginning Aug. 24. The show combines pop, country, calypso and rock coupled with an inspiring moral fable. And you thought the Bible was dull. *The Fox Theater, 660 Peachtree St. Aug. 24-29. 8 p.m. $52-$55. 404-252-8960. www.foxtheatre.org.*

Shakespeare's classic **"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** gets a dinner theater revival at the Shakespeare Tavern through Aug. 28. The play is part of the Tavern's look at the playwright's more mystical musings. The Bard's fanciful fairy tale follows the exploits of four young lovers as they romp through a mysterious and magical wood plagued by nymphs and fairies. Sounds like your last trip to the park. *The New American Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree St. Thu.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 6:30 p.m. $19.50-$24.50. www.shakespeareteavern.com*

If you want to find the hottest guys around, check out the 2004 **Atlanta Hunk Contest**. Contestants will compete in a variety of categories to be crowned king of all Atlanta hotties. Fox News' Corey Thompson and The Atlanta Tonight Show's Shannon Wiseman host the competition. Judges include Q100's Melissa Carter, *Cover* magazine's Meredith Purden and *Jezebel's* Darryl Yosue.
eleven50, 1150 Peachtree St. 7 p.m. $10. www.eleven50.com.

AEN CORPORATE DIVERSITY PANEL: Reps from Bellsouth, Home Depot, Delta Airlines and others discuss workplace equality. *Sheraton Midtown Colony Square, 14th and Peachtree streets. 6:45 p.m. $20. 404-724-9008. www.aen.org.*

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE: 19th annual band fundraiser to battle cancer. *Roxy, 3110 Roswell Rd. 7 p.m. $50-$95. 404-315-1123. www.partywithapurpose.com.*

"KILL BILL VOLS. 1 & 2": Tarrantino's modern classics hit the screen at the Fox. Swordplay was never so much fun. *The Fox Theater, 660 Peachtree St. 8 p.m. $7. www.foxtheatre.org.*

AGMC AUDITIONS: Grab the pitch pipe and try out for Atlanta's Gay Men's Chorus. *First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Road. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. 404-320-1030. www.agmchorus.org.*

TOUR OF ITALY: Sotto Sotto's monthly four-course dining spectacular. Mama Mia, that's' a good pasta! *Sotto Sotto, 313 N. Highland. 5:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m. $39. 404-523-6678.*

EGOMANIA AT IMPULSE: Modesty will get you nowhere when Paul Wolski's Alter Ego Pop Art creations come to life amidst a silent auction and the debut of pop portraits capturing Phoenix and Nicole Paige Brooks. *Compound, 1008 Brady Ave., 404-872-4621. www.impulseatl.com*

NIGHTLIFECALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

ARMORY. Flux. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Brain Freeze trivia extravaganza with Ruby Redd, 11pm., $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke jackpot, 10 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m.
Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
CHAPARRAL. Flamin' Hot Wednesdays with hot bods, go-go boys, contests.
CLUB 708. Open mic night, 10 p.m.
Mini-Ball drag show, 2 a.m.
CLUB JAGUARS. "Banjee Boi" dance party with DJ "M." 10 p.m.-3 a.m.
CLUB M-MAGE. Ladies Night, 9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
HERETIC. Dress Code party, DJ Rick Davis.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate Two-step dance lessons.
LE BUZZ. "Camp LeBuzz" with Arianna D'Black, 10 p.m.; Men of Menerge dancers, 11 p.m.
MASQUERADE. Vain Wednesdays.
METRO. Class, Ass & Pizzazz with host Maxine Blue and Feleshia Sapphire, Yanae Van Michaels, Ava Chanel Alexander, Jewel Holiday, Tanisha Cassadine, Charles Kelly, Dominique and Milan, 11:30 p.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Open mic night.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MODEL T. Movie night, 12 a.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Karaoke, 9 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Smirnoff martini special.
RED CHAIR. Ladies Night.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 11 p.m.
WETBAR. Femmetini Wednesdays for women.

BLAKE'S. Blake's Mail v2.0, $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke Idol jackpot.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix with Mary Edith Pitts, Martina Diamante, Savannah Leigh and Niesha Dupree.
CLUB 708. Trade Thursdays plus Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Bad Boy Thursday, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear party, 10 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
HALO. DJ Brandon Sutton.
HERETIC. Experience Rapture dancing, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, Ladies Night
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. '80s trivia
LE BUZZ. Check out this Cobb favorite.
MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.
METRO. Latin Connection with DJ Carlos, 10 p.m. Alexis Troncoso and special guests, 12 a.m.
MODEL T. Talent search, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Alternating open-mic and singer-songwriter night.
THE NEW ORDER. Open mic night.
OSCARS. Best of the Oscars videos w/VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. Karaoke contest, with grand prize trip

METRO

FRI.08.20
CLUB 1821
18 TO PARTY, 21 TO DRINK
CUTIE PIE CONTEST

>Best Body Parts
>WIN Cash and Prizes with Amber Divine
DJ Jason

MON.08.23
Shawnna Brooks'
MAD MONDAY REVUE WITH ASHLEY KRUIZ

TRASH REUNION
GUEST DJS TINY TEARS & LISA FOXXX
NO COVER WITH INDUSTRY CARD — SIGN UP FOR YOURS!

WED.08.25
Maxine Blue's
CLASS, ASS & PIZAZZ SHOW WITH

FELESHIA SAPPHIRE, JEWEL HOLIDAY, YANAE VAN MICHAELS, CHARLES KELLY, AVA CHANEL ALEXANDRIA, MILAN, TAMISHA CASSADINE, DOMINIQUE, DJ JONES

METRO
1080 PEACHTREE / 404.874.9869
HAPPY HOUR MON-SAT, 3-10 PM
with Kelly "Mary" O'Brien & Louie Spetrini

for two to Halloween in New Orleans. 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. Service Industry Night, free buffet 7-9 p.m.
VALS. June Dunaphant plays piano with open mic singers, 7:30 p.m.

ARMORY. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba, 7 p.m., $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Out In Country: country music night with free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
BUDDIES. Dumpster Divas.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m.
Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. International gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m. Blackout Fridays.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. Sweat, 10 p.m.-3 a.m.
JUNGLE: No cover before 11 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Dance, Dance, Dance" w/DJ Flea.
MARY'S. Danceteria. 9 p.m.
METRO. Cutie Pie Contest with host Armorette Amber Divine, 12 a.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Live music, special events.
THE OSCARS. Martinis, Men & Videos with VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. DJ Derrick Shaw.
No cover before 11 p.m.
TRIPPS. Disco night, 9 p.m.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. Dance hits on the best patio in Atlanta
WOOFS. Catch all the hot sports action

BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal."
THE BREAKING POINT. Cabaret and drag fights.
BUDDIES. Gladiators of Glamour, 10 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with Men of Jaguar.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
JUNGLE: No cover before 11 p.m.
LE BUZZ. LeGirlzz of LeBuzz drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
METRO. Caliente! Latin dance party with DJ Martin, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Model Teez Girlz drag show, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Dance party.
THE OSCARS. Martinis, Men & Videos with VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. VJ Patrick Finger. Never a cover.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRAXX. Legendary Traxx Night hip-hop, 10 p.m. Male revue show, third floor, 12 a.m.
TRIPPS. Blackout party.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. Ultimate Boys Night. Enter to win a trip to the Bahamas.

ARMORY. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 9 p.m.

BLAKE'S. Atlanta's No. 1 drag revue, Big Time!
BUDDIES. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip-hop gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Social night, open until midnight.
EAGLE. Open until midnight.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Free buffet, 5-6 p.m.
MODEL T. Café Zone 3 jazz show, 10 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Sunday T Patio and Dine Outdoors Party, 4:30 p.m.

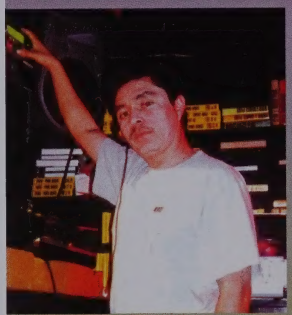
BLAKE'S. Neighborhood Party with free buffet from 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Drag Races 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool.
BUDDIES. Free pool until 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys exotic dancers.
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Free pool and $3 margaritas.
METRO. Return of the Trash with DJs Tiny Tears and Lisa Foxx spinning '80s hits, 10 p.m. Shawna Brooks' Mad Monday Revue starring Ashley Kruiz, 12 a.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Free pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. Dragamaki w/Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and guests.
THE OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
TRAXX. Stars of the Century female illusion show, doors open 10:30 p.m.

BLAKE'S. Island Night, $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool & game night.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Oldies & Goodies night '70s and '80s hip-hop and R&B, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night.
DRAGONFLY. 18-and-up gay night. Open bar, 10-11 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke w/Alexandria Martin.
MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
METRO. Latin House Dance Party w/DJ Martin, 10 p.m.
MISS Q's. Pool league
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Showtune Tuesday.
RED CHAIR. Dinner and a Movie, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRAXX. Thugged Out Night hip-hop, doors open 11
VAL'S. Ladies Night.
WETBAR. Support Your Community Night. 10% of proceeds go to charity.

METRO

ATLANTA'S BEST LATIN DJs!

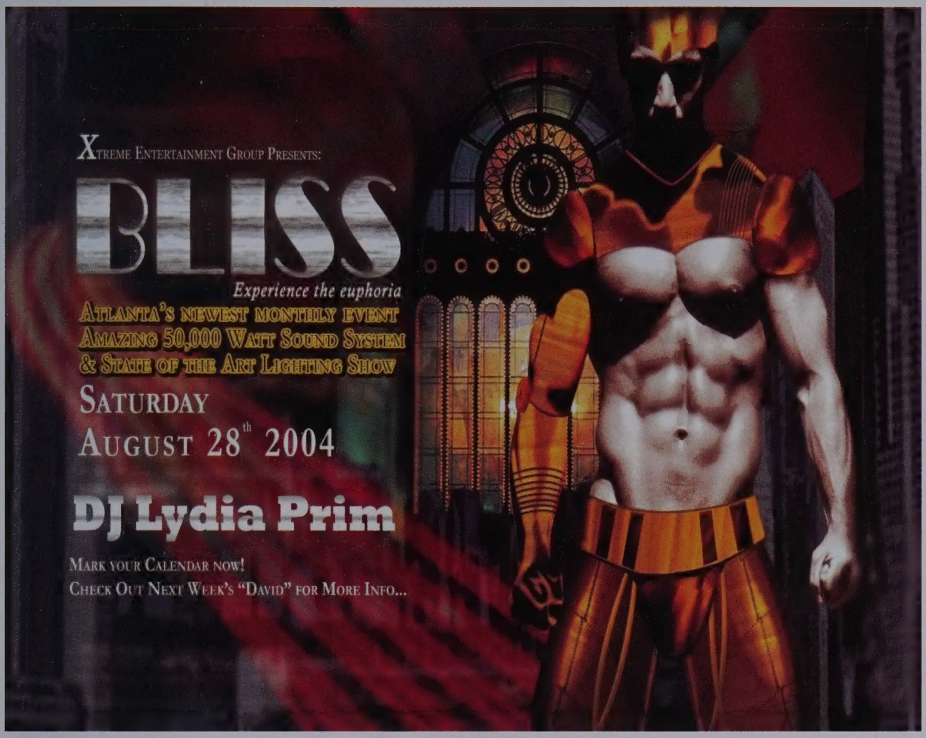
SAT.08.21
¡CALIENTE!
DJ Martin

TUE.08.24

DJ Martin's
LATIN HOUSE DANCE PARTY

THU.08.26
DJ Carlos
LATIN CONNECTION
SHOWMASTER ALEXIS TRONCOSO AND GUESTS AT MIDNIGHT

METRO
1080 PEACHTREE / 404.874.9869
HAPPY HOUR MON-SAT, 3-10 PM
with Kelly "Mary" O'Brien & Louie Spetrini

NIGHTLIFE MAP&DIRECTORY



1. **ARMORY**
   836 Juniper St. / 404-881-9280
2. **BACKSTREET ATLANTA**
   845 Peachtree St. / 404-873-1986
3. **BLAKE'S ON THE PARK**
   227 10th St. / 404-892-5786
4. **BRIGADOON IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT**
   1054 Main St., Stone Mtn. / 770-469-7877
5. **BUDDIES**
   2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd. / 404-634-5895
6. **BULLDOGS**
   893 Peachtree St. / 404-872-3025
7. **BURKHART'S**
   1492-F Piedmont Ave. (Ansley Sq.)
   404-872-4403
8. **COMPOUND**
   1008 Brady Ave. / 404-872-4621
9. **JUNGLE**
   2115 Faulkner Rd. / 404-844-8800
10. **COLOURS**
    1492-B Piedmont Ave. (Ansley Sq.)
    404-724-0611
11. **EAGLE**
    308 Ponce De Leon Ave. / 404-873-2453
12. **FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE**
    1510-G Piedmont Rd. (Ansley Sq.)
    404-249-7899
13. **HALO**
    617 W. Peachtree St / 404-962.7333
14. **HERETIC**
    2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd. / 404-325-3061
15. **HOEDOWNS**
    931 Monroe Dr. / 404-876-0001
16. **LE BUZZ**
    585 Franklin Rd, Marietta / 770-424-1337
17. **MARY'S**
    1287 Glenwood Ave. / 404-624-4411
18. **METRO**
    1080 Peachtree St. / 404-874-9869
19. **MISS Q'S**
    560 Amsterdam Ave. / 404-875-6255
20. **MODEL-T**
    699 Ponce de Leon Ave. / 404-872-2209
21. **MY SISTERS' ROOM**
    222 East Howard Ave. / 404-370-1990
22. **NEW ORDER**
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    404-874-8247
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    550-C Amsterdam / 404-870-0532
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    1400 Northside Dr. / 404-352-0532
29. **TOWER II**
    735 Ralph McGill Blvd. / 404-523-1535
30. **TRAXX**
    306 Luckie St. / 404-681-4252
31. **TRIPPS**
    1931 Piedmont Cir. / 404-724-0067
32. **VALS**
    3701 Lawrenceville Hwy., Tucker
    770-938-0567
33. **WETBAR**
    960 Spring St. / 404.745.9494
34. **WOOFS**
    2425 Piedmont Rd. / 404-869-9422

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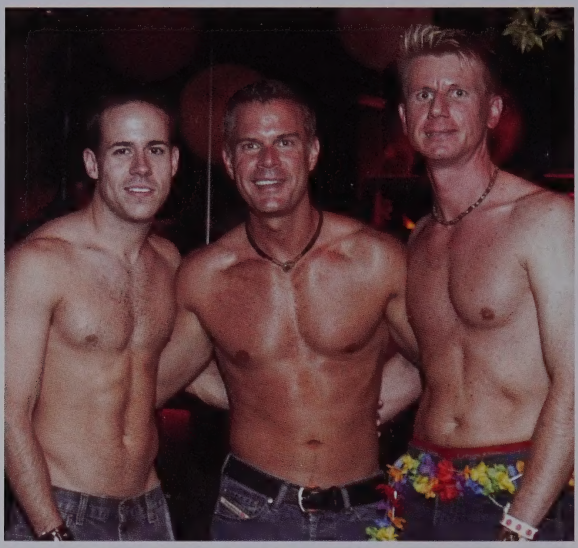
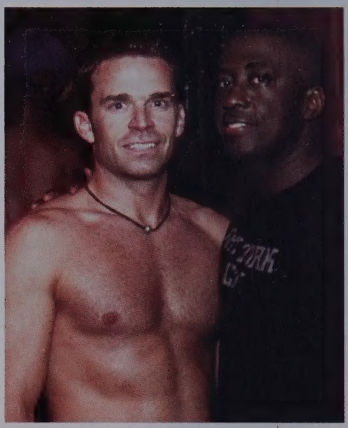
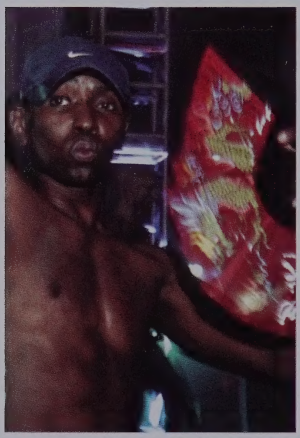
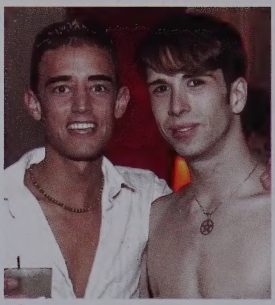
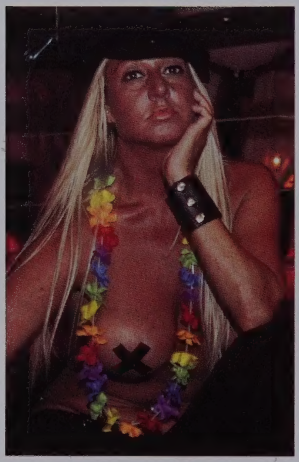
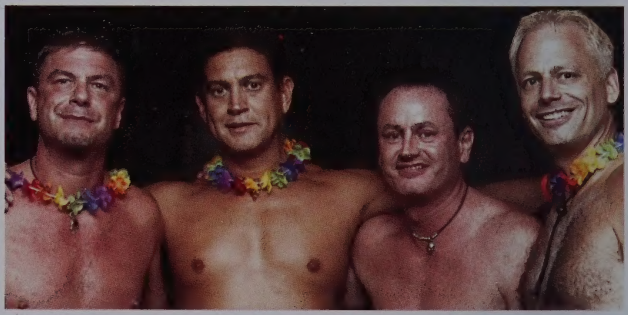




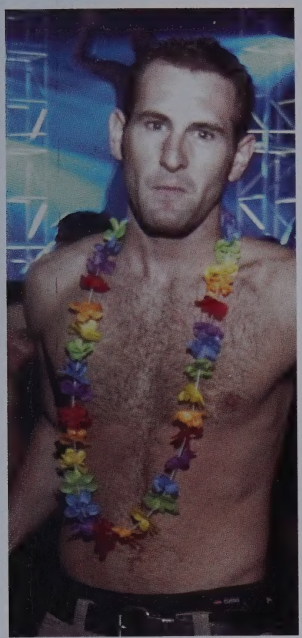


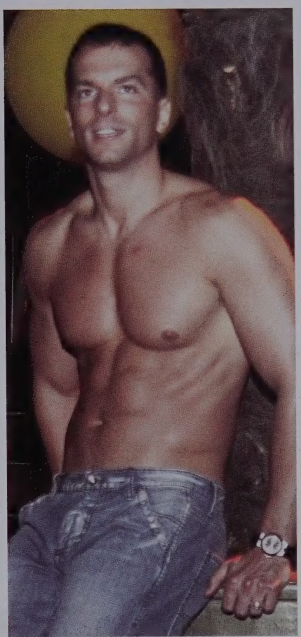






RUSS YOUNGBLOOD





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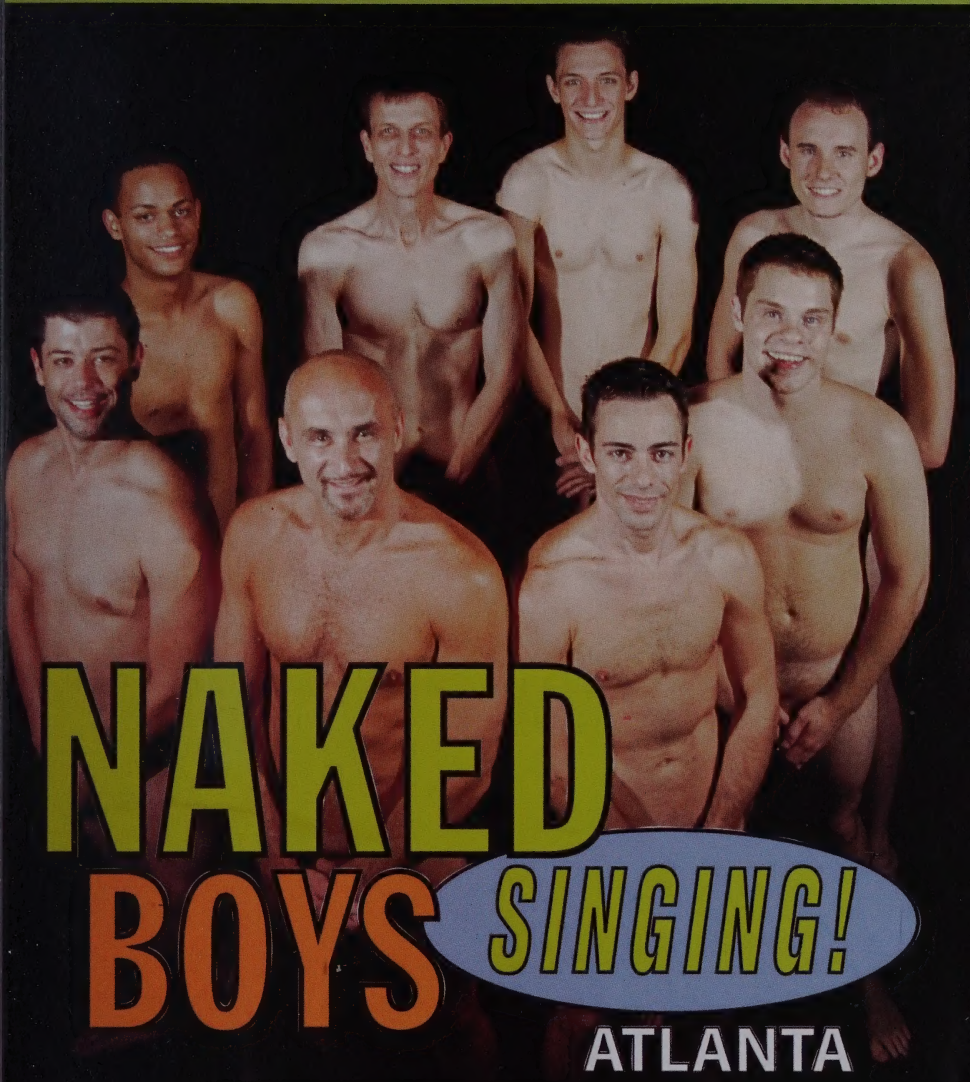

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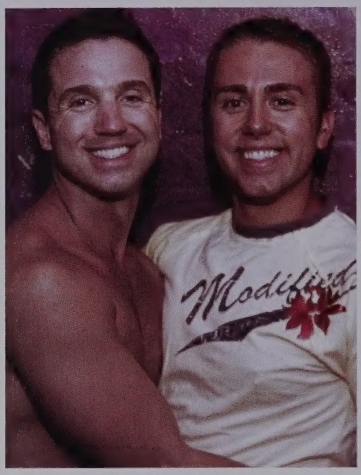

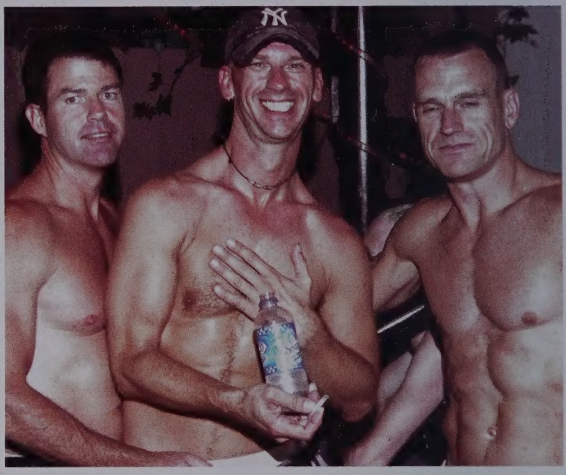

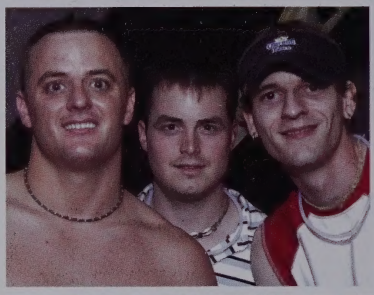

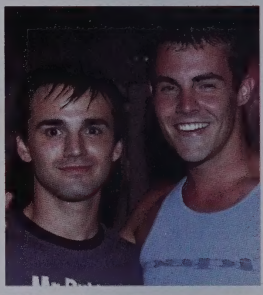

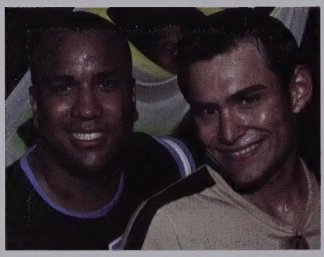

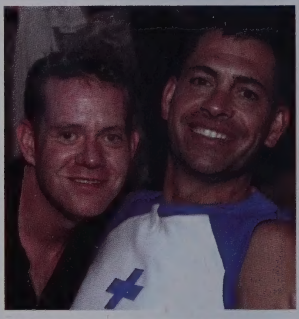

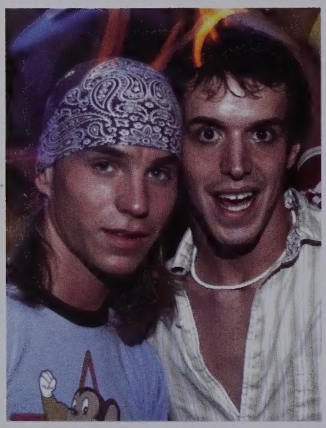

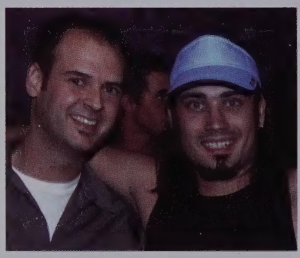

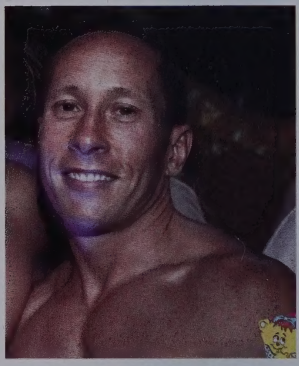

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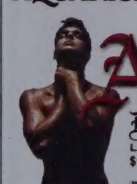

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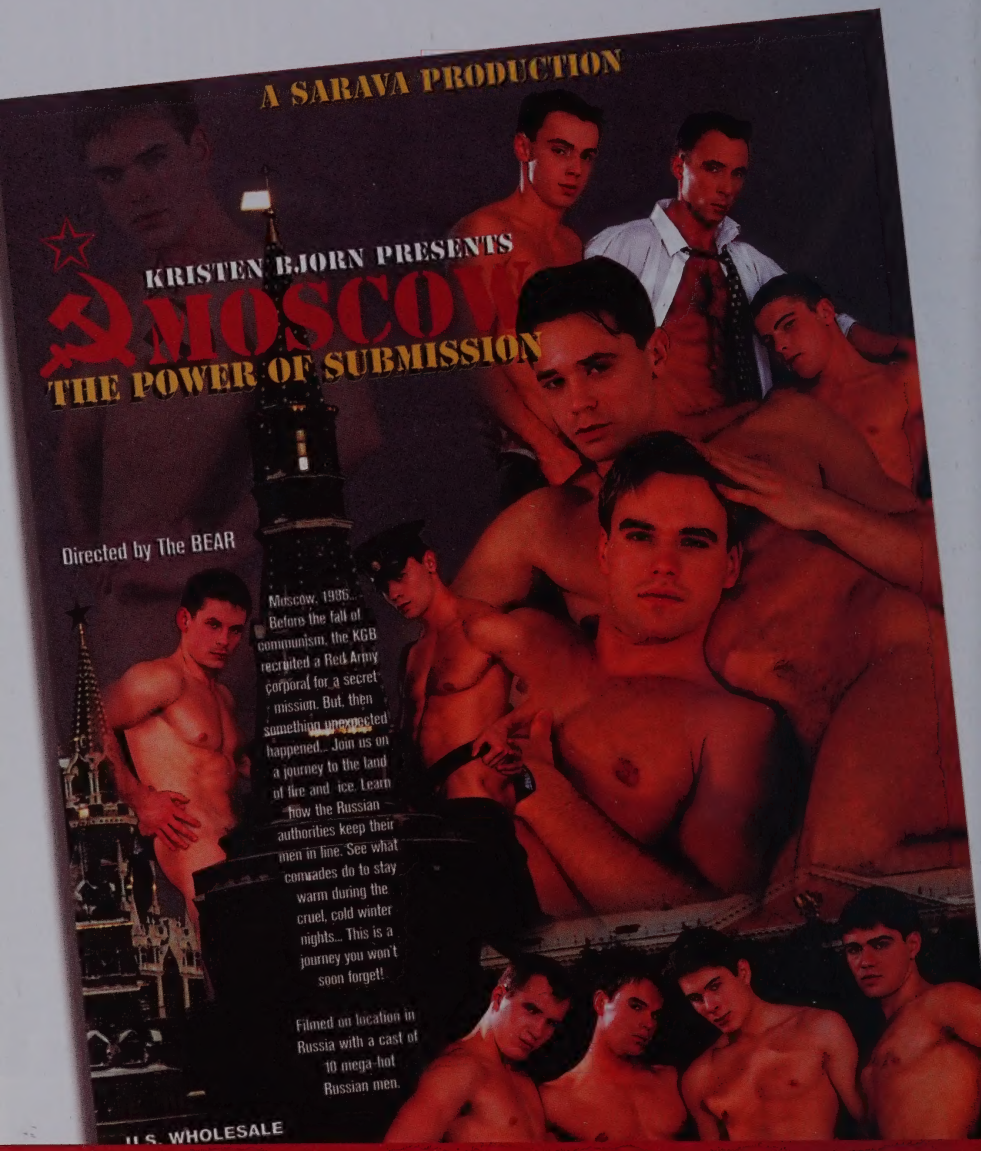
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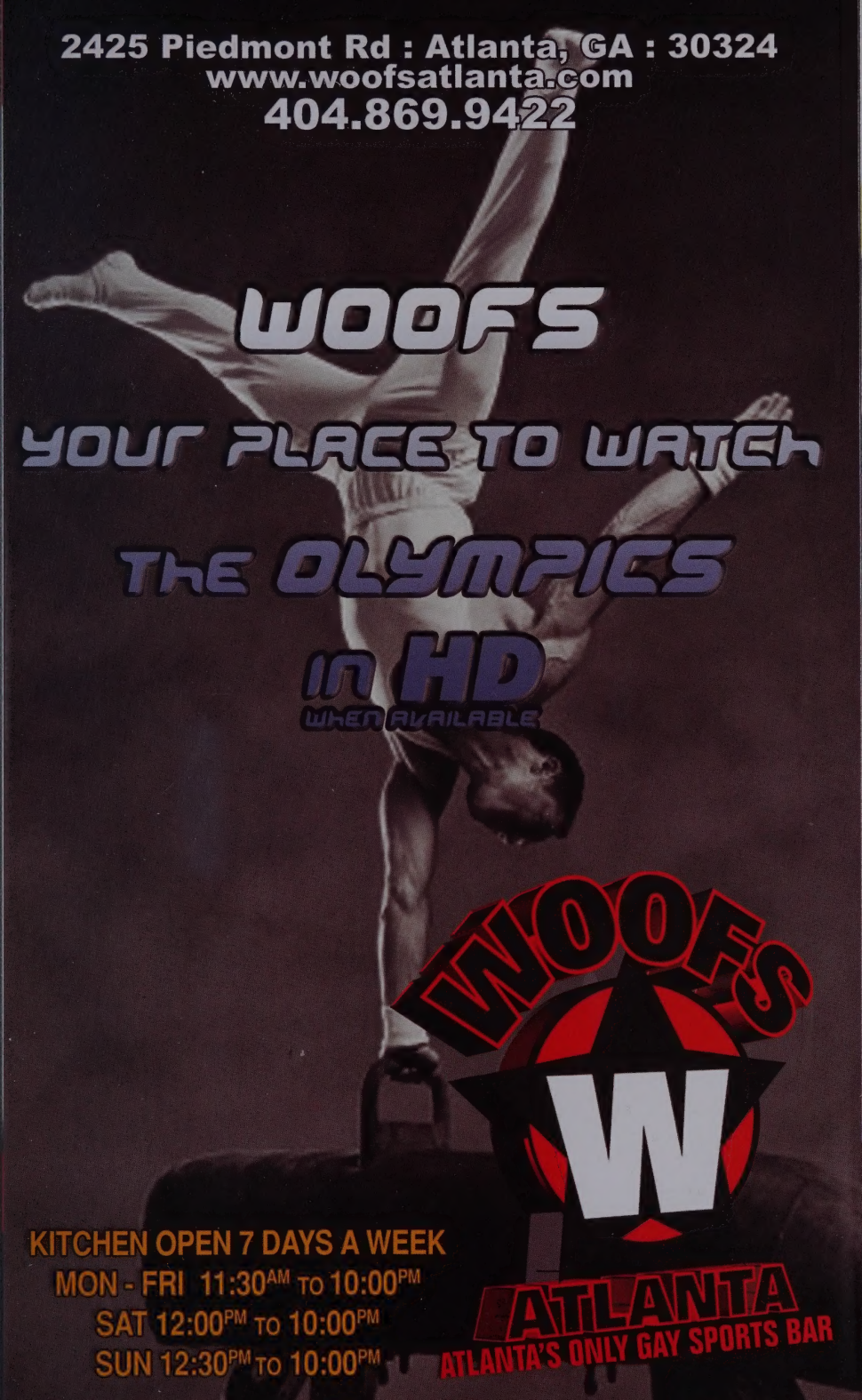
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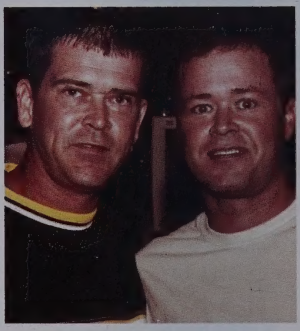

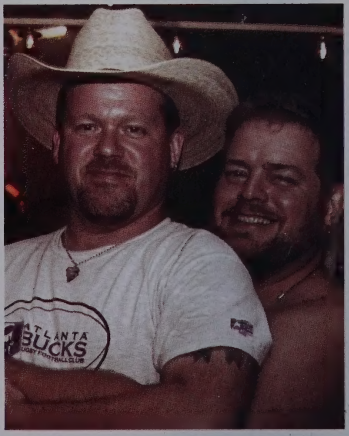

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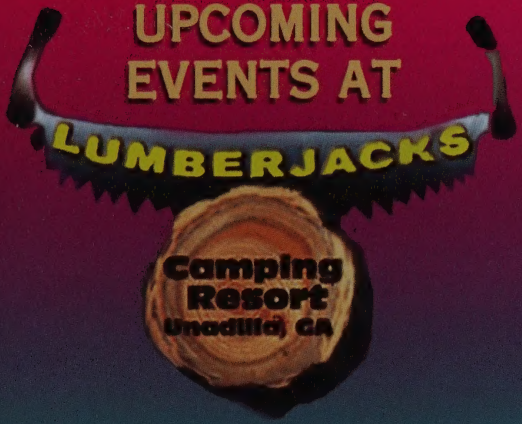

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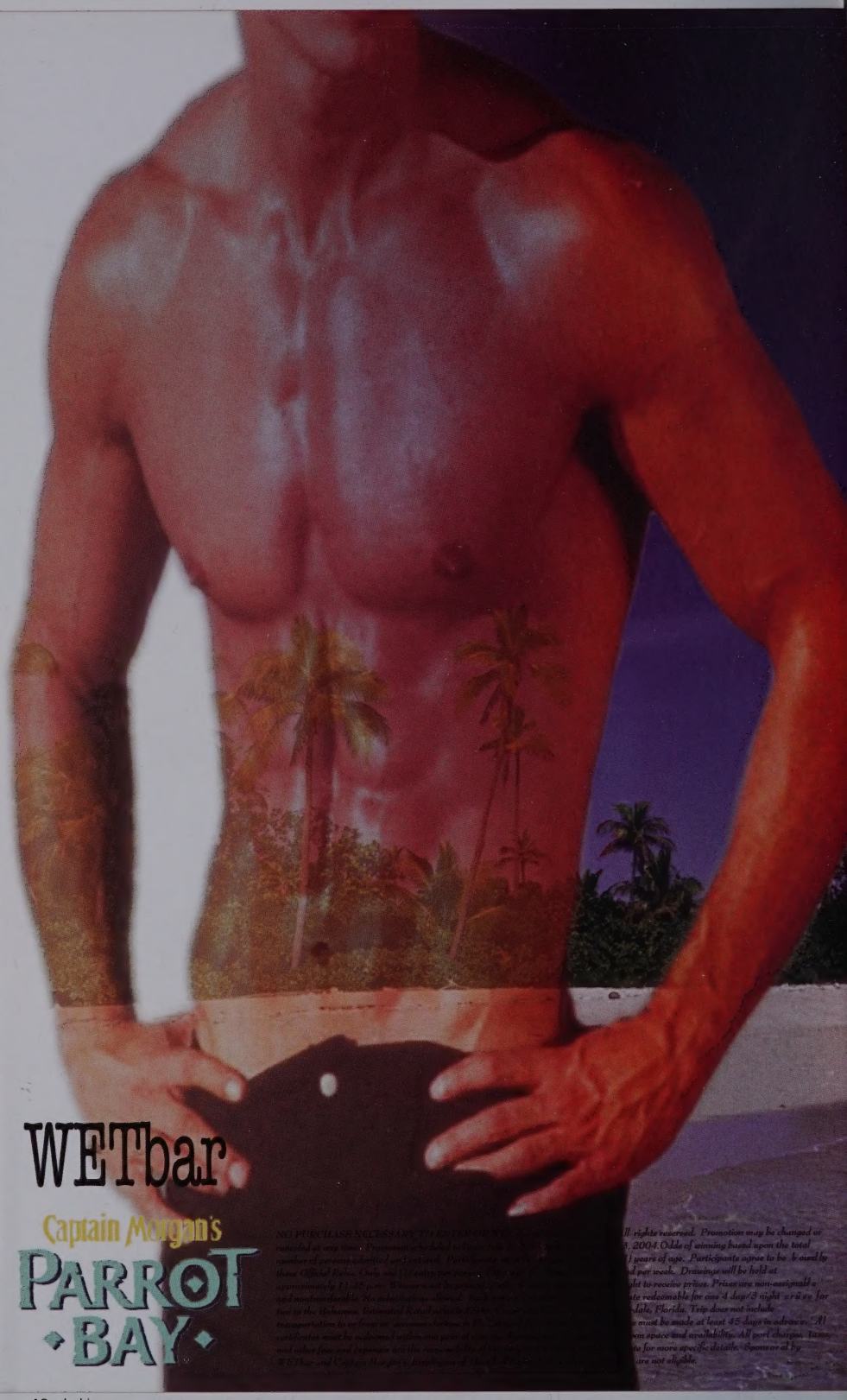

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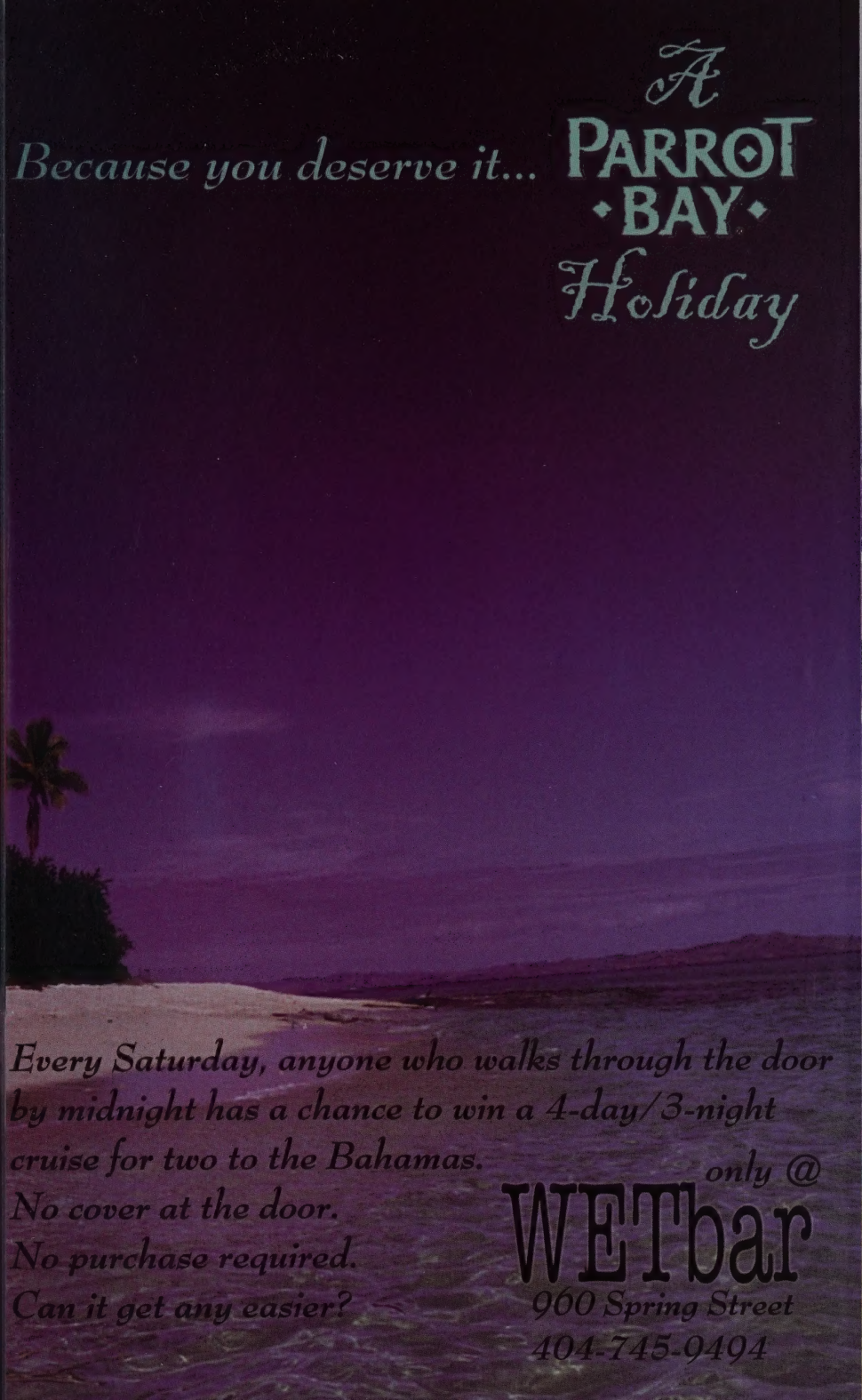
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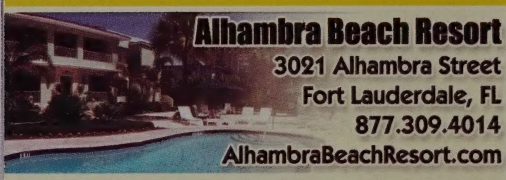

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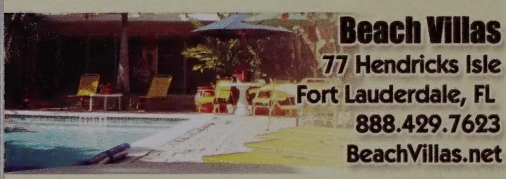

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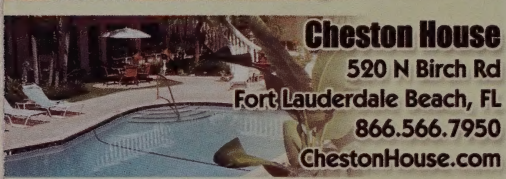

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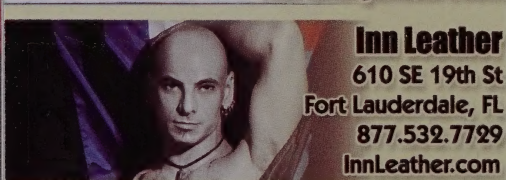

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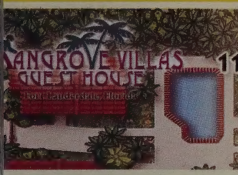

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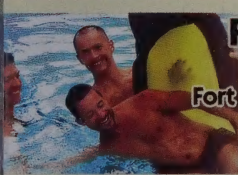

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BY GREG FOX

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YOU!
I'D LIKE TO GET A ROOM HERE.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME?
SHOULD I?
YOU WORK AT THE DELI COUNTER AT THE SUPERMARKET.
OH. I'VE MET A LOT OF PEOPLE THERE.
YOU ASKED ME OUT.
DID YOU SAY YES?
WE DIDN'T GET THAT FAR.
YOUR LOSS.
ANYWAY... I DON'T WORK THERE ANYMORE. I HAD TOO MANY ISSUES WITH THE MANAGEMENT.
WHY IS THAT NOT A SHOCK?
I CAN'T ANSWER THAT.
CAN I SEE THE INSIDE OF THIS PLACE? OR DO YOU TREAT ALL OF YOUR GUESTS THIS RUDELY?
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FINE. COME RIGHT IN.
I'M NOT WILD ABOUT THE FIREPLACE.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST FIREPLACES?
THEY'RE INEFFICIENT WITH HEAT DISTRIBUTION. MORE HEAT ACTUALLY ESCAPES THROUGH THEM THAN IS PROVIDED TO THE HOUSE.
FASCINATING. BUT WHY IS THIS ANY OF YOUR CONCERN?
HIGHER HEATING BILLS COULD ULTIMATELY AFFECT MY RENT.
"RENT"?! YOU'RE PLANNING ON STAYING HERE LONG-TERM?
I WAS... UNLESS THE HIRED HELP CONTINUES TO TREAT ME WITH SUCH GLARING DISRESPECT.
I'M NOT THE "HIRED HELP!" I'M THE OWNER.
MY... HAVEN'T WE GOT SOME CONTROL ISSUES.
LOOK... WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS--
BREYER WATKINS.
"BREYER"? WHAT KIND OF A FIRST NAME IS THAT?
THAT'S A COMPLICATED STORY.
I'M SURE IT IS. ANYWAY--
BY THE WAY... THEY'RE AQUA.
"AQUA"?
YOUR EYES. YOU SAID THEY'RE BLUE-GREEN... BUT AQUA IS THE PROPER TERM.
OH. YOU DO REMEMBER ME, THEN.
DON'T TAKE IT AS A COMPLIMENT. I ALWAYS REMEMBER DIFFICULT PEOPLE...

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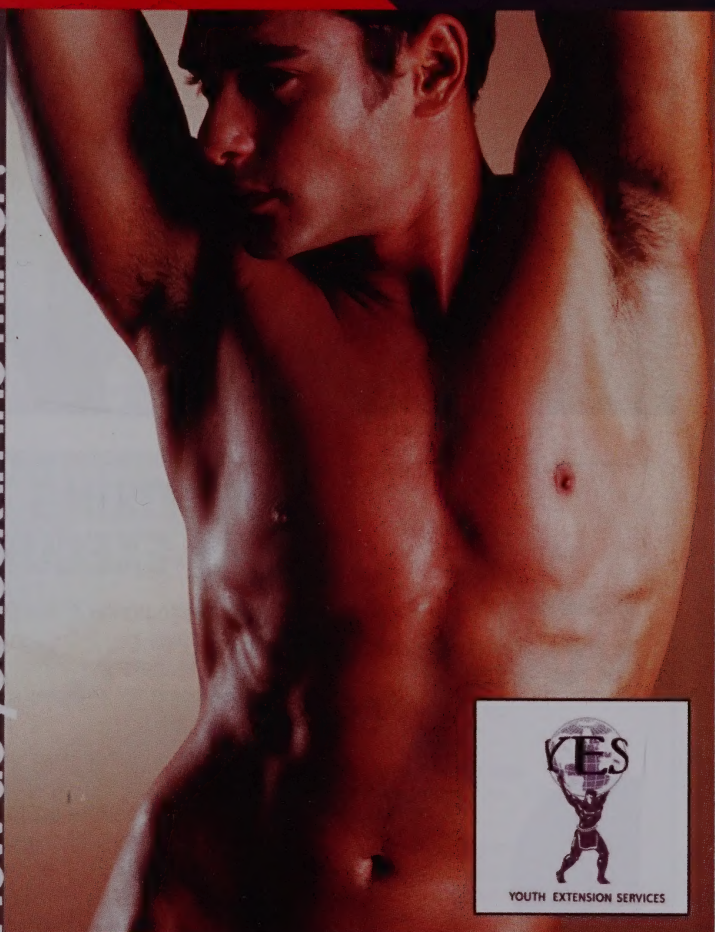

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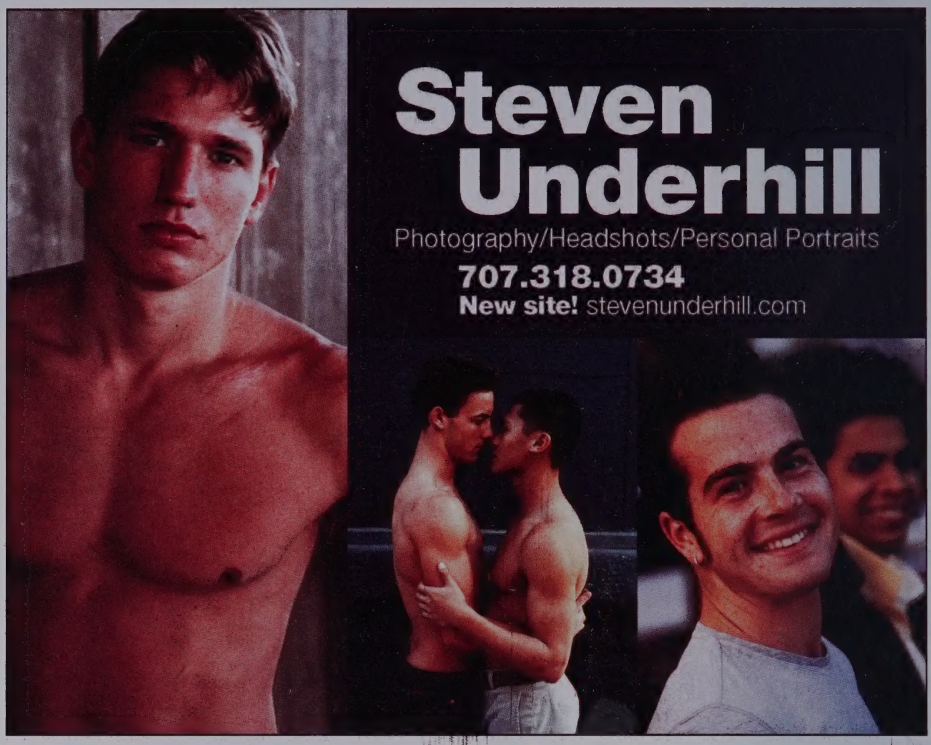

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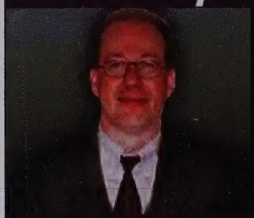

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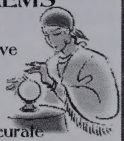

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What do you do when **the party never ends?**

FEW CHALLENGES TO THE LOVE BETWEEN TWO people are as painful as a partner's addiction to drugs or alcohol. While some of the problems faced may vary with the substance being abused, there are common behaviors that make addiction a real love destroyer. Alcoholics and addicts really make their partners suffer. They are usually insensitive to the needs and feelings of their partners; their priority is drinking, tweaking or bingeing, not a relationship. Addiction brings out the worst in a person: broken agreements, violated boundaries and behavior that can be all out abusive. It's an ugly picture.

How do you know if a partner has a problem with alcohol or drugs? Often the first sign is screwing up on the job or missing work altogether because of too much partying the night before. Getting arrested for DUI is another, or getting arrested for public indecency or some other sexual acting out. An increase in fights or arguments is a marker for many couples; sometimes it's clear that your guy has had a major personality change as his problem has progressed.

(A word to those who see themselves in the above description: if you wonder if you have a problem, you probably do have a problem.)

Watching your guy self destruct is awful — a bit like watching someone die painfully. We hope he'll change, so we make threats or deliver ultimatums. Sometimes we make excuses for family, friends or employers, hoping to shield the addict/alcoholic from the worst effects of his behavior. Other times we try to keep him away from the club where he drinks too much with his buddies, or the guy who supplies him with drugs.

We try to reason with him and point out what's going on. (Maybe he agrees at the time, but he is either trying to buy us off with compliance or is unable to control his desire for a drink or bump.) If our taste runs to drama, we may have visions of doing an intervention worthy of Dr. Phil. Unfortunately, these strategies mostly just make him more resentful and drive him further away.

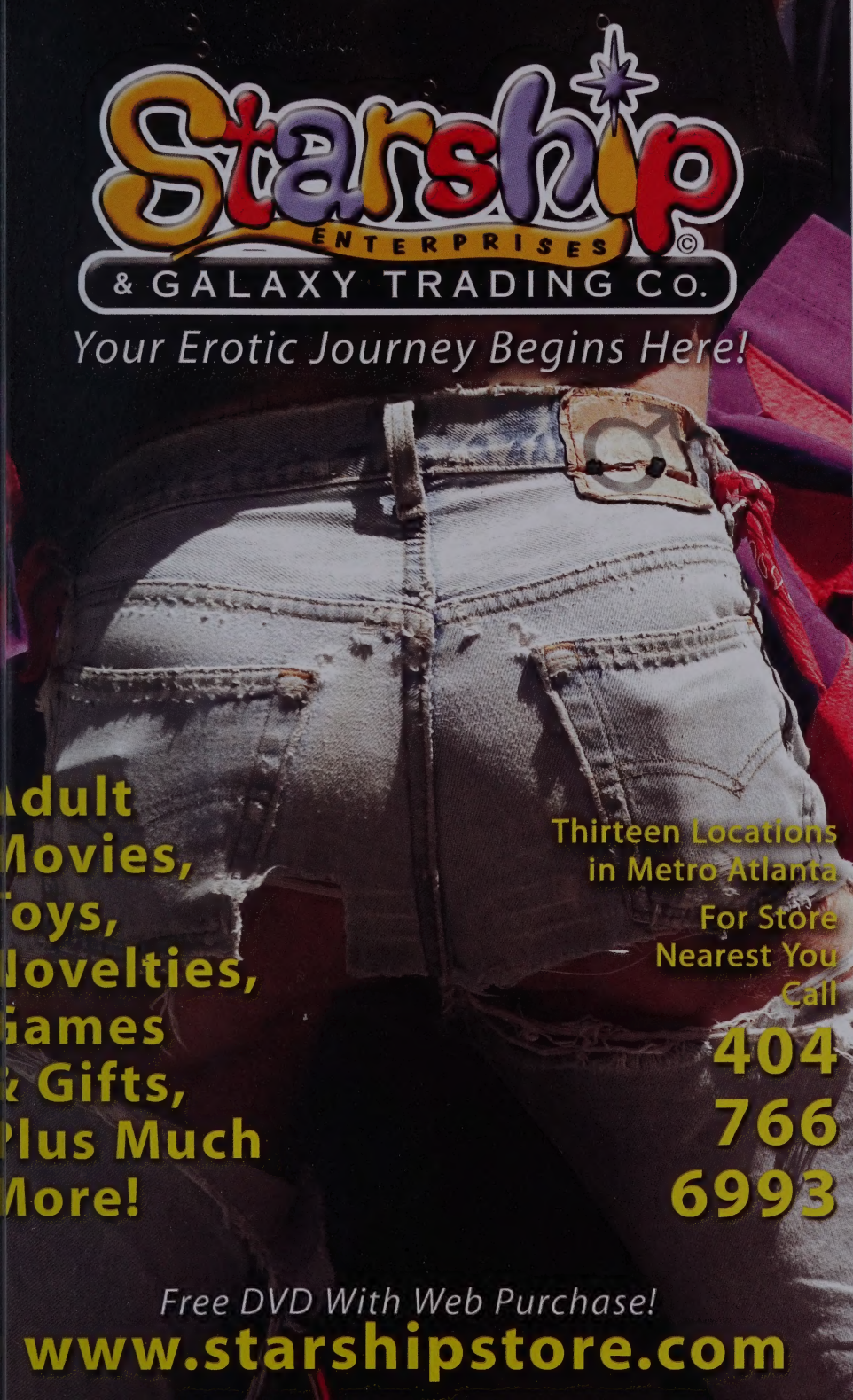
What works? Before you can help someone else, you need to face your own reality. There is a limit to what you can do. His drinking or drugging isn't something you caused, and you are not going to reform him. He won't stop drinking or using until he's ready to do so, and you aren't responsible for his drinking.

Your first job is to take care of yourself. Don't put up with abuse from him, for one thing. Stop making excuses for him or covering up his messes; think of it as "tough love." You can also let him know how his behavior affects you. (Don't bother trying this when you're partner's high or drunk. He won't remember the conversation. Arguing with a drunk is pretty much a waste of your time.)

You can help by getting in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous (www.alcoholics-anonymous.org), your family physician, a minister, priest or rabbi or someone else who may be willing to speak with your partner. But be mindful that before your lover can be helped, he must acknowledge that the problem exists. Until that happens, no healing or recovery is possible.

And what if your partner isn't interested in help? You can still get help for yourself. Alanon (www.alanon.org) is a resource that has helped thousands of people cope with addiction in their families. You can work with a mental health professional to help take care of your self, educate yourself about the disease you're dealing with and manage the stress on your relationship. Sometimes when one person grows and changes the other person in the relationship changes, too.

John R. Ballew, M.S., is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Atlanta. He specializes in issues related to coming out, sexuality and relationships and spirituality. 404-874-8536, www.bodymindsoul.org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NEED WOOD? BY WOODY MILLER

My condition requires me to use crutches. Should I mention them in **my online ads?**

HEY WOODY!

I am disabled with a disease called fibromyalgia. I am retired now — on disability, use crutches, and deal with some pretty wicked symptoms.

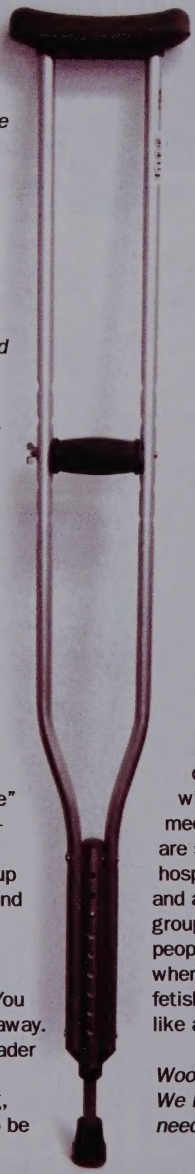
I try to meet people either face-to-face or online. I always make it clear that I am looking for a range of connections so if they don't feel comfortable with dating a gimp they could go for something less stressful.

I am HIV-positive as well, and communicate that in my ads. Ironically, I once joined a group for HIV-positive men and got kicked out because I talked about dealing with the physical pain I experienced from fibromyalgia.

Most of the time I stay pretty upbeat. I make it clear I am looking for a connection and not a caretaker, but as you can imagine, my "capture rate" is pretty low.

I have a dark, ironic sense of humor and make fun of myself and my illness. I am wondering if you have any suggestions on how to better sell myself. Also, what do you think of NOT mentioning my crutches when I'm online until I actually meet the person?

— Quadroped



DEAR QUADROPED:

First off, I'm not buying your "poor me" bullshit. Support groups bend over backwards for their members. You'd have to be a real putz to be thrown out of a group that specializes in letting people bitch and moan about pain.

You need to do a personal inventory and get an honest appraisal of this wonderful persona you think you have. You know, the one that's driving everybody away. I'd start by asking the support group leader the real reason why he threw you out.

I'm not trying to be mean or anything, but ... wait. Who am I kidding? I love to be mean. I don't give a shit about your HIV or your crutches. Rules are rules and they apply to everybody, including the likes of you.

RULE 1: You will attract the kinds of people you want if you become that which you want to attract.

RULE 2: There is no getting around rule number one.

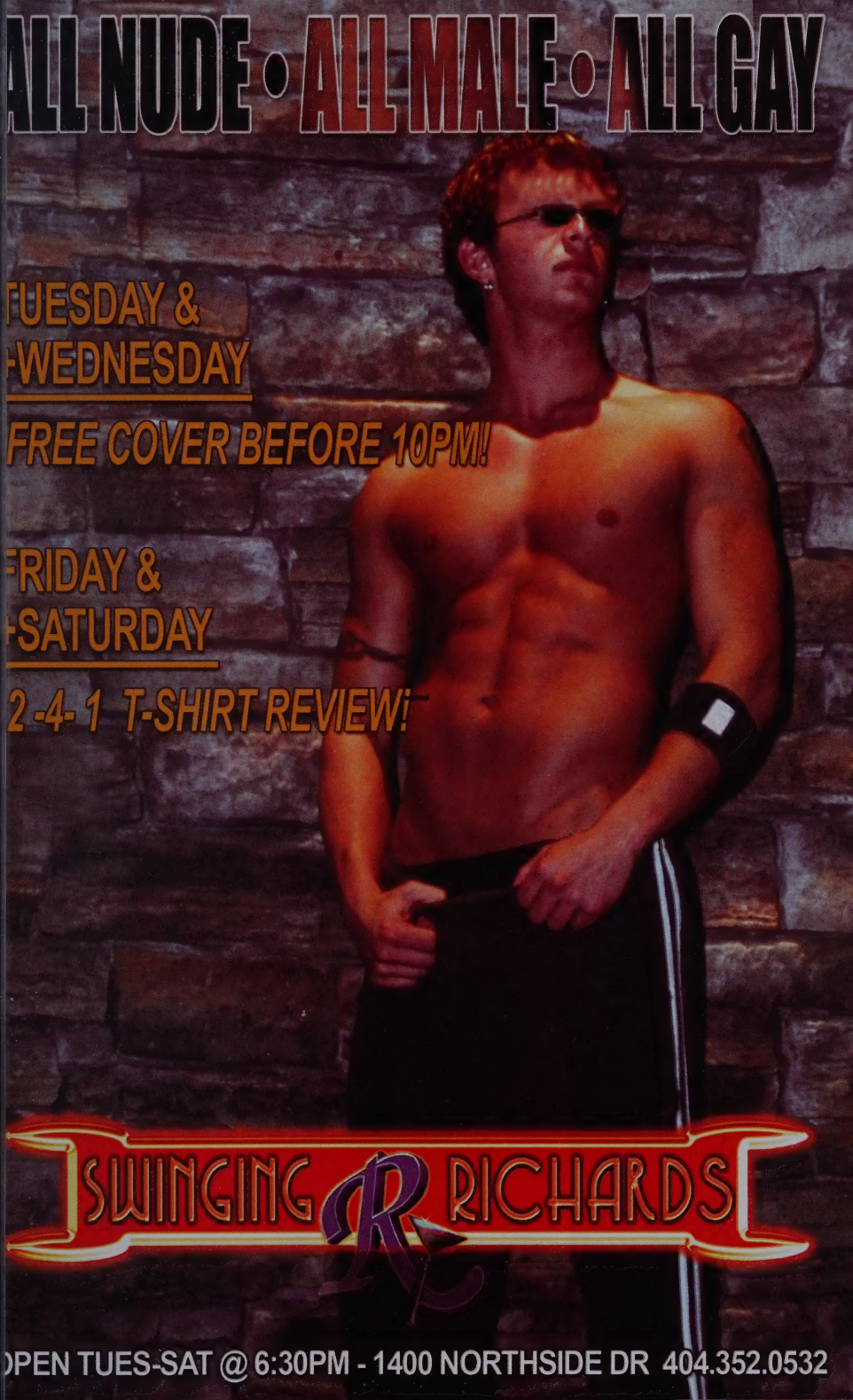
Something tells me you haven't worked out the understandable anger, resentment and depression around your HIV and fibromyalgia and that it's coming out in your interactions with people. A little therapy might be in order.

As for not telling prospective meat about your crutches till you meet, forget it. To expect an online date to walk in confidently and then watch him walk in with crutches has to be one of the most shocking — and unfair — experiences you can foist on someone.

It may be wrong that people can't see past your crutches but you don't fight injustice with unfairness. You fight it with truth, dignity and respect; especially for yourself.

I'd lay off the mainstream hook-up sites if I were you and concentrate on sites that attract men with your conditions. The best places to meet people most likely to accept you are support groups. Call your local hospital's patient education department and ask them for fibromyalgia support groups. Join them too. Also, check out people who have crutch fetishes (hey, when in Rome ...). Sites like www.fetishbank.net specialize in people who like a little crutch in their crotch.

Woody is the author of "Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon." He can be reached at needwood@comcast.net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Atlanta's largest networking organization for gay and lesbian professionals and businesses. 1447 P'tree St. #300, Atlanta, Georgia 30309 404.724.9008.

Boy Talk, men 18-24, meet every Thursday at YouthPride for conversation and friendship. 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur 404.378.7722 info.

AIDS & STD Information Line 1.800.551.2728 Monday-Thursday 9am to 9pm and Friday 9am to 7pm. Call for free and confidential information and referrals.

For details and registration call 404.870.7742, e-mail aids101@aidatlanta.org, or visit AID Atlanta's Web site at www.aidatlanta.org.

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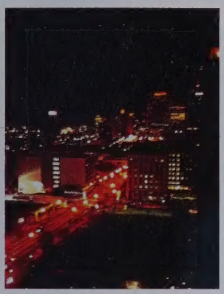

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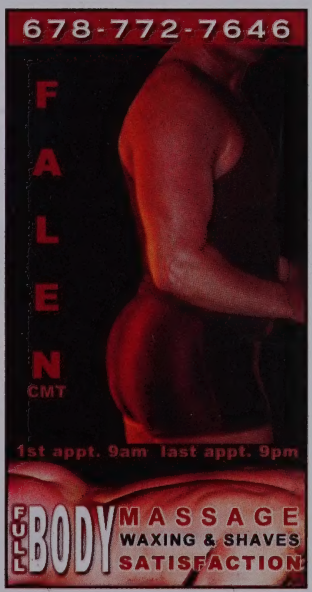

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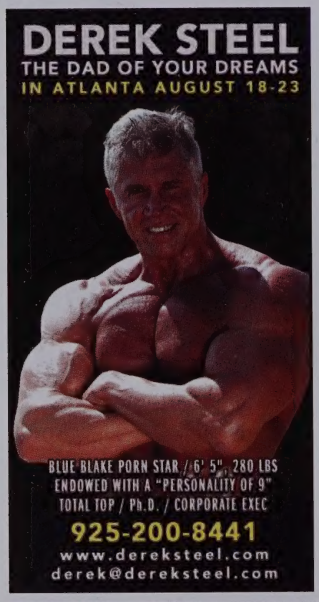
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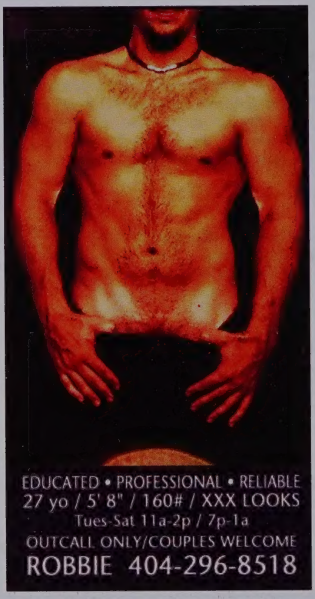
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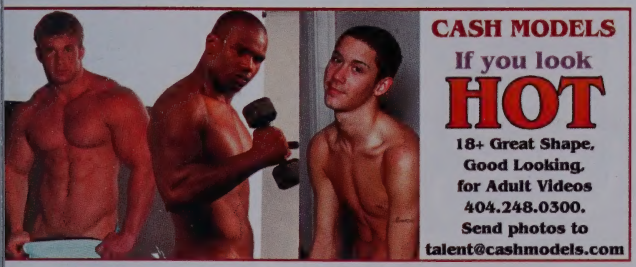
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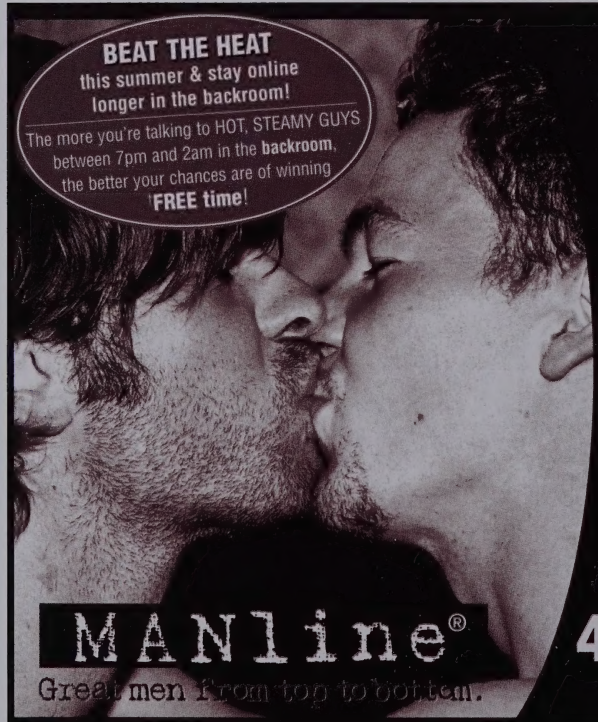

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To the guy whose life is "too busy" to be bothered maintaining our friendship until it's beach season and he can freeload at my beach house: Get a hotel!

I'm sick of these lesbians who drag their ill-behaved kids to public events and expect everybody to put up with them. Then they cop an attitude if you ask them to exercise parental skills.

To all the guys with personal ads that exclude other races: You suck! I thought the gay community was about inclusiveness and tolerance, but I was sooooo wrong.

You're right. You won't find a partner in the bars by tricking. But you might be like me and find a one-night stand that's lasted for 19 years.

To the guy who doesn't like tribal tattoos: You put on your makeup and heels; I'll wear my ink. We'll go out, and I bet I get more compliments on my art than you do on your face.

"Troll" really isn't a term of age; it is a term of behavior. There are young trolls, too. How many showers at the gym does one person need?

To the gay Republican who says he's an American before he is gay: You stupidly imply it's un-American to be gay. They aren't mutually exclusive.

GAyDD: a socialization disorder that causes gay men to lose focus on one man and continuously check out others by craning their necks, darting their eyes, and peppering current conversation with banal niceties.

To the person who said younger guys don't want older men except to drain their wallets: Since you've admitted to prostituting yourself to those same older men, climb down from your moral high horse.

Does anybody else hate all the cilantro restaurants are using these days? I can't be the only one getting small pieces stuck between my teeth when I'm macking on hotties. Can I get a witness?

Just when you thought Hollywood was starting to give us a little full frontal once in awhile, the test audiences for Colin Farrell's new movie couldn't handle the sight of his huge pecker. Damn bitches ruined my summer!

How can a bar not let in someone with only a military ID? Without the military, there'd be no "us," stupid.

To the guy who bitched about "tribal" tattoos: I have one on my shoulder, and frankly I agree it's a stupid, misleading name. I chose it because I like the design; the only tribe I belong to is the chosen one. Oy, don't ask!

To all you alcoholics at the dinner table: Try paying for your own drinks for once instead of expecting us to split the bill with you.

To the dope who said he is American before he is gay. Wrong! If you were stranded on a desert island with a copy of the Constitution and another man, I know which one you would have wrapped around you.

Hey Bitch Boy: Stop printing sound bytes that spew racial hatred. I thought you had a brain in your head, but I guess it's in your penis.
Bitch Boy responds: Huh? I thought you had a point, but I guess you didn't make it.

I am so tired of the second question in this city after your name being, "What do you do?" I happen to have a personality and a life outside of work. I went out of town for a week and never once was asked what I did for a living.

Expressing my bitches here is a lot healthier for all concerned than picking up a semi-automatic to do it.

When in doubt, swirl out.

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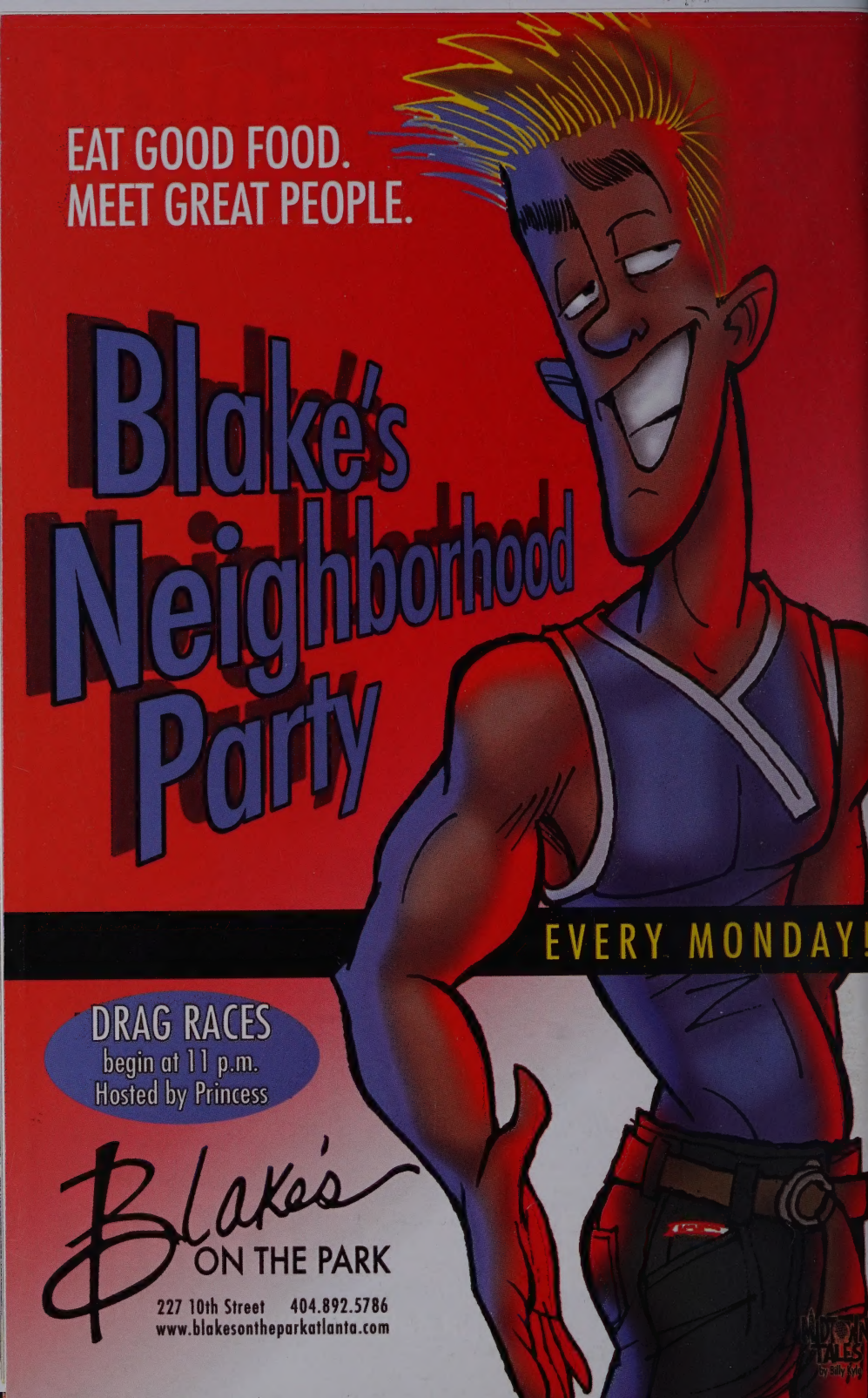
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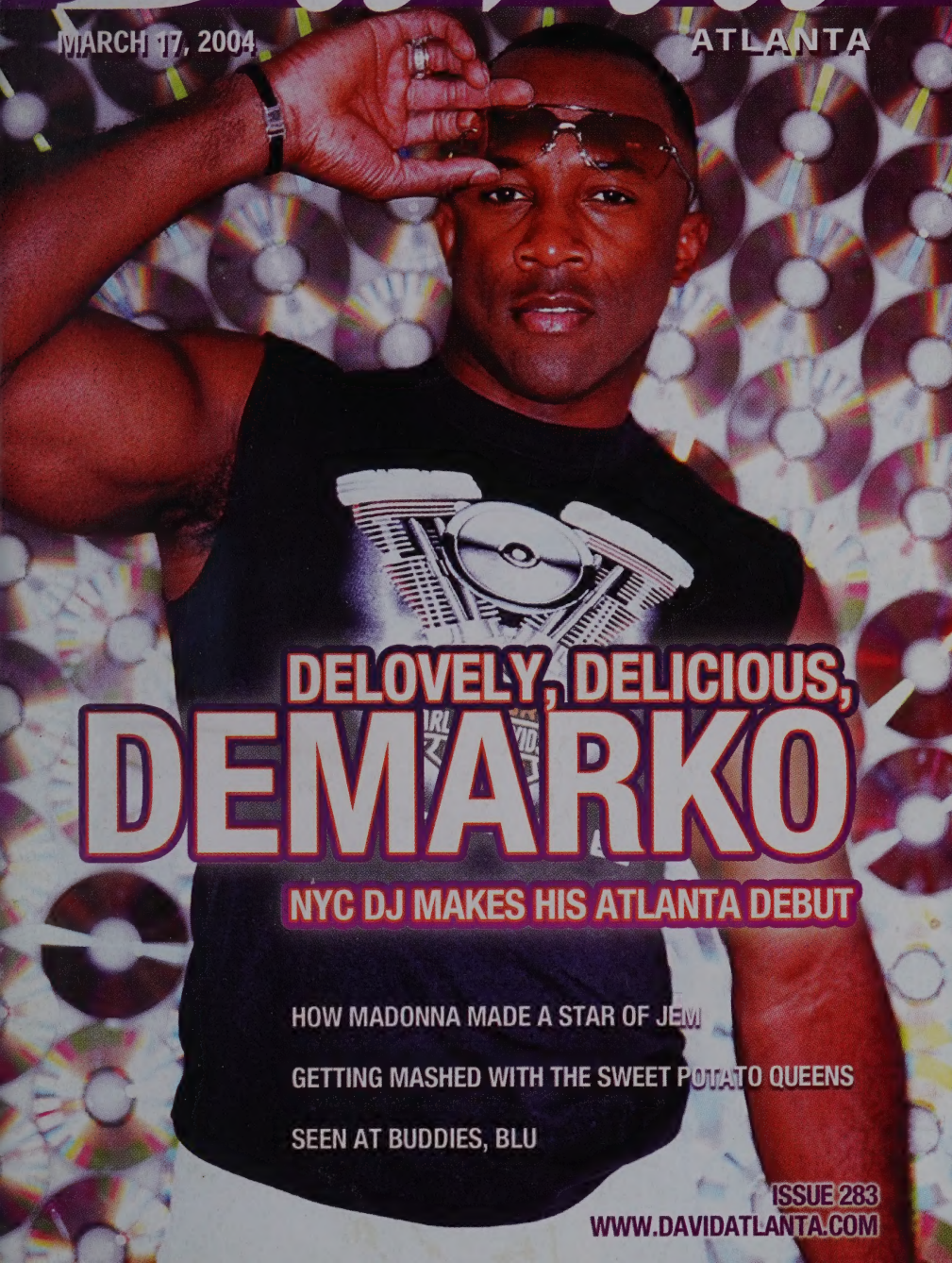

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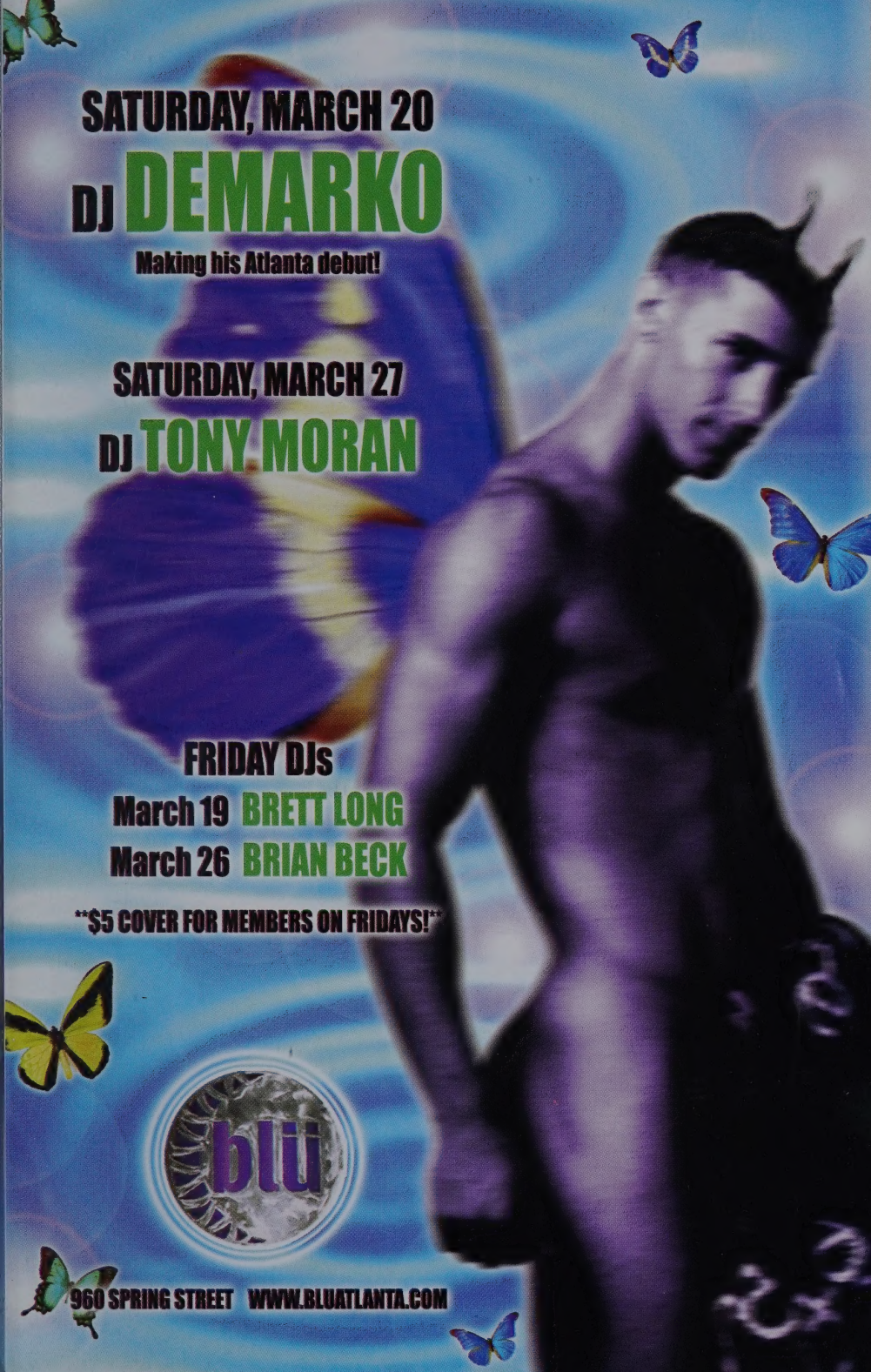
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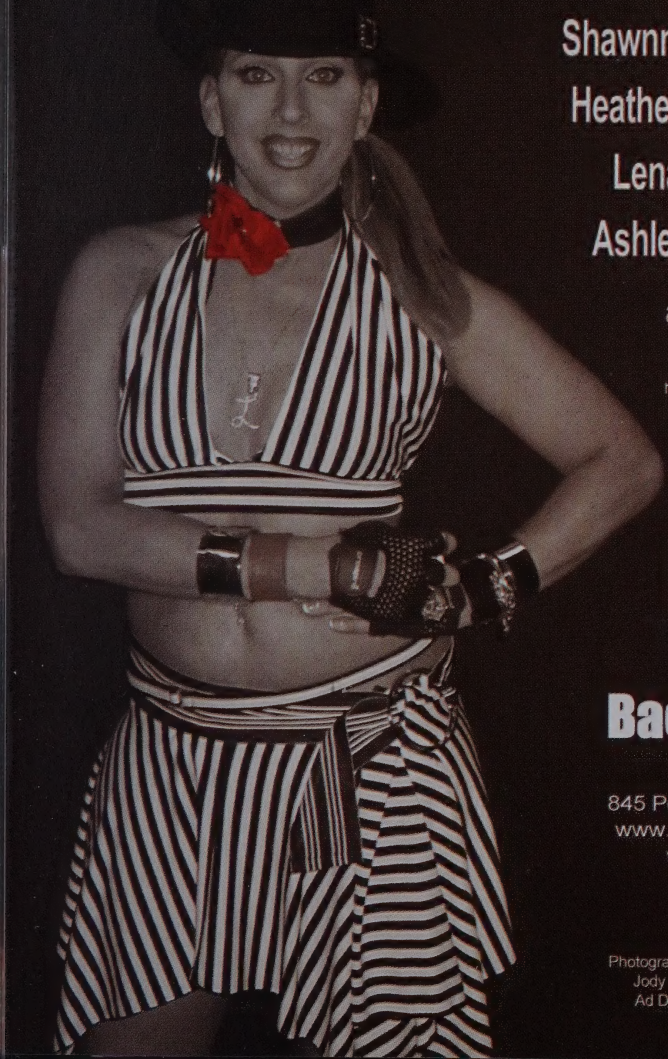

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David

MARCH 17
2004

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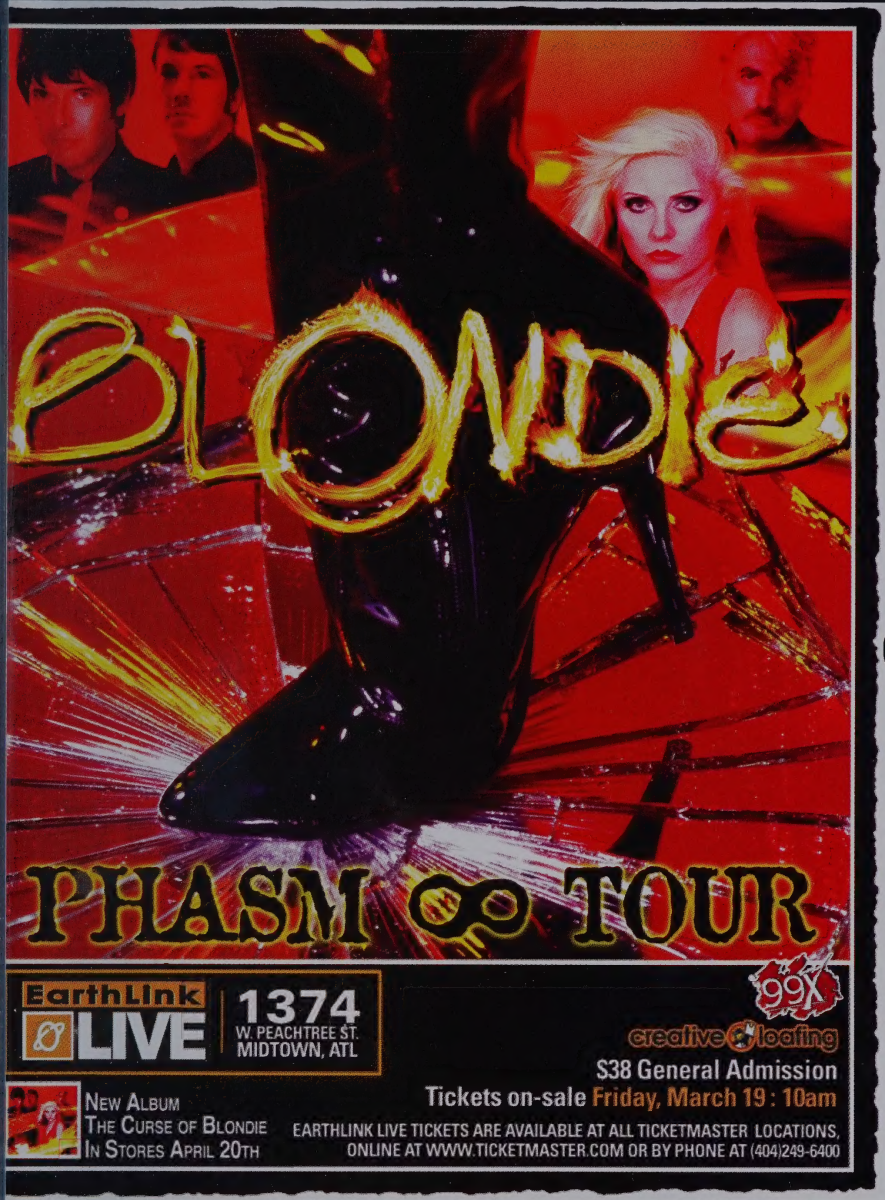

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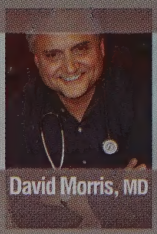
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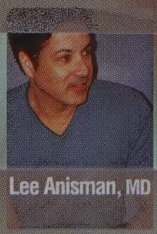
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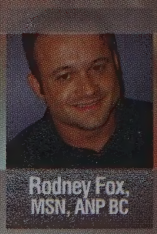
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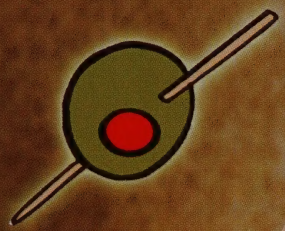

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LICKITY STRIP: Dames A'Flame perform with Kingsized Presents the Gusto Show at Paris on Ponce. (Arthur Usherson)

BURLESQUE IS MORE

Launch a book, check your sex and tuck your rocks

AUTHOR AND NPR COMMENTATOR Hollis Gillespie's book launch party at Paris on Ponce last Thursday was one of those moments when you gasp and realize that your evening has been completely transformed. Picture the girls of the Moulin Rouge and a circus sideshow performing at an Alabama juke joint.

Guests were entertained by the burlesque of the **Dames A'Flame** and the music of **Kingsized Presents the Gusto Show** ... a tossed salad, if you will, of Atlanta's fashionistas, artisti and intelligentsia. Gillespie's hysterical trials and tribulations in some of the worst hoods in this city are vividly captured in her new book, *Bleachy-Haired Honky Bitch*, a great read!

FRIENDS AND I CREPT ACROSS PONCE TO Model T's in the Ford Factory Lofts for **Drag Queen Talent Night**. Those interested are encouraged to perform and should attend on Thursdays by 10 p.m. to be put on the schedule.

Now, this is an experience that will either put hair on one's chest and make one a man or leave one crying and rocking in the corner. But what a perfect evening! Some truly fine, very gutsy performances.

Clearly we were desperately in need of the hooch (that's liquor, by the way — not the other thing), so it was off to **Clermont Lounge** for sustenance from our dear friend, **Blondie**. Over noise of the jukebox and a yelping fellow stripper, our hostess pulled us to the corner booth and recited us her favorite Valentine's poem, *My Pussy is Dead*.

MY LONDON SPIES ARE TELLING ME THAT our favorite GayTL sex-advice columnist, **Michael Alvear** (aka, Woody Miller of "Need Wood?" fame), has been filming a new British reality show tentatively called "Sex Inspectors" (though the producers are also

considering "Was it Good for You?"). Basically, Alvear and his gorgeous straight girl cohort **Tracey Cox** go into heterosexual couples' bedrooms to "make-over" their sex life. Well, blimey! Michael Alvear can "make-over" my sex life any day! I'm thinking that there are certainly worse ways to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Broadcast network Channel 4, which is home to "So Graham Norton," has commissioned six episodes so far. The first episode will air in August. If a hit, you can bet we'll see it in America soon.

I JOINED PAINTER AND producer **Jimmy Hilburn** and CNN Web correspondent **Bryan Long** for my first **Dragamaki** at Nickiemoto's. Over sake sipping and drag sweeties we collected the votes: This surely must be the cruisiest (is that a word?) place for a Monday evening in Atlanta.

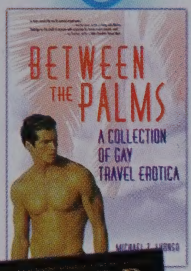
A VERY ANGRY TONYA Richards, aka **Tuna Fish-er**, voiced her opinion about the **Heretic's** no-women policy on Wednesday nights. "You can't win for losing," she told me after relating the tragic tale of being turned away from the front door for being in drag.

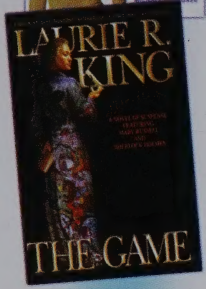
Boys, she does have a point. I mean, clearly she is a man.

Geez, all I've talked about this week are drag queens. Those estrogen pills have gotta go.

Know of a scene this queen should cover? E-mail scenequeen@davidatlanta.com

OUTWRITE...
Spring Means Hot Releases!





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WAVE (10pm-5am)

Saturday.May.29

BOUNCE 2 (4pm-8pm)

SWEAT (@ Emerald City) (9pm-3am)

SPELLBOUND 1 (3am-9am)

Sunday.May.30

ABRACADABRA (9pm-4am)

SPELLBOUND 2 (3am-9am)

DJ LINEUP

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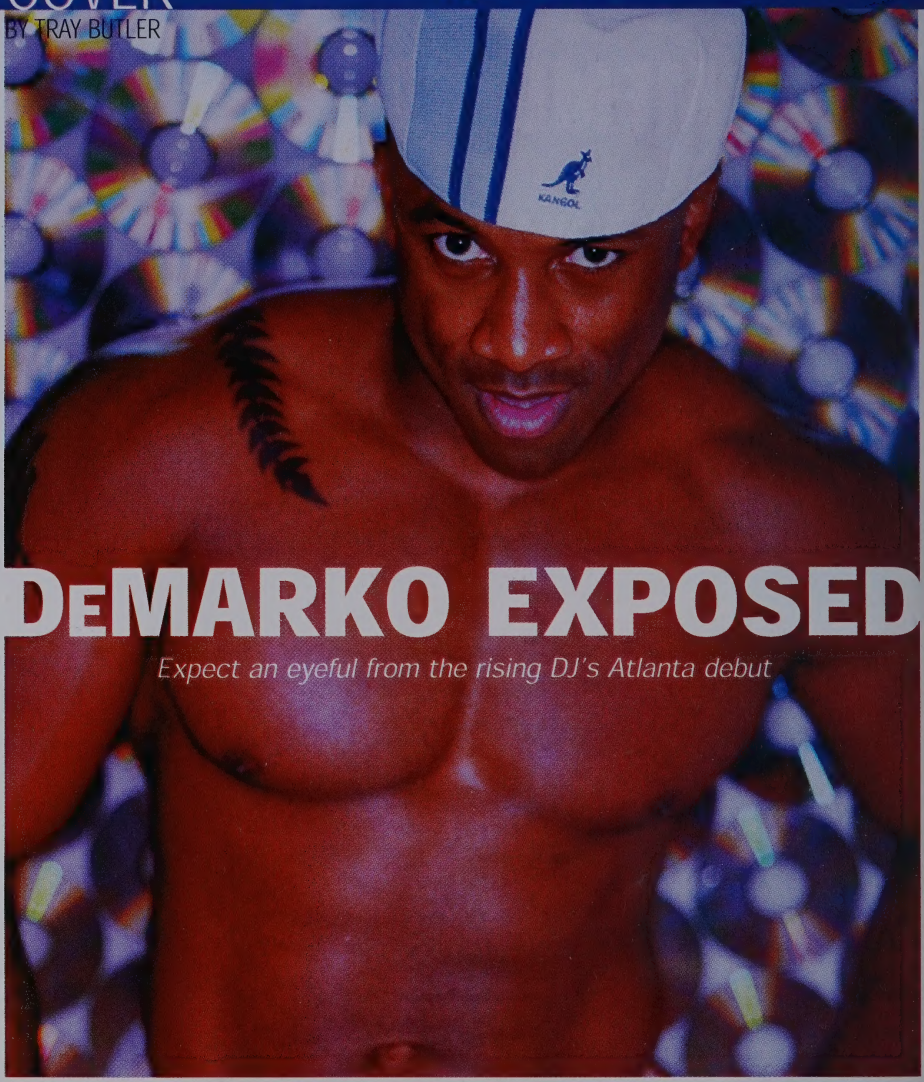
BY TRAY BUTLER



DeMARKO EXPOSED

Expect an eyeful from the rising DJ's Atlanta debut

(PROJECT PUBLICITY INC.)

BEFORE YOU BARGE INTO THE DJ BOOTH TO tell DeMarko you're digging his set, you might want to knock first. The New York-based DJ, who makes his Atlanta debut at Blu this weekend, has a reputation for disrobing during performances.

"I do that on occasion to freak people out," says DeMarko, who, Cher-like, doesn't bother with a last name. "I played at Crobar the other weekend, and I went in there completely clothed. By the end of the night I was half naked. Thank God that my butt is big enough, so that my overalls didn't fall off."

Such a comfort level in the booth is completely appropriate for a DJ who compares the dance floor to a house party he's hosting. It's not about him, he says, it's about making his guests happy.

DeMarko's tenure on the turntables goes back seven years, when he got his start spinning (sometimes in the buff) at The Spike in L.A. You might say the infamous West Hollywood leather bar has stuck with him ever since: He's played the International Mr. Leather party in Chicago, and last weekend appeared at the Leather Party at Loading Zone during Miami's Winter Party. DeMarko says he's a little nervous about being typecast into one particular scene, but that he's loved the energy of those events.

Born in Montreal, DeMarko moved with a boyfriend to Miami to pursue a career in modeling. He eventually landed in L.A. and, incidentally, on the cover of *Playgirl*, as well as in several commercials. But just as his modeling was taking off, DeMarko hit a snag. He fell and broke his back, an injury that left him temporarily paralyzed and shut the door on his budding career.

During his recovery, DeMarko returned to his earlier love of music, playing around with his high-school hobby of remixing songs. He also met his future mentor: DJ Manny Lehman. He finds it difficult to describe the recovery period.

"You don't realize how to do it until you're actually in it. But you find the courage when you need it," he says. "After I was able to start going out again, I'd go to Manny's parties. And it was actually torture because I couldn't dance."

What he could do was play music, and he used the downtime to learn from one of the masters how to work a crowd into a frenzy. Soon enough he was filling in for Lehman at Orbit in L.A. Back on his feet, DeMarko moved to New York and continued his education under his old pal Tony Moran. DeMarko now calls Tony his best friend and a great mentor.

He began a Friday night residency at the be-seen Chelsea watering hole G, where he caught the eye of visiting Circuit Mom and made his way into some Chicago gigs as well. He also maintains an in-store residency in SoHo's Armani Exchange. A lot of responsibility, compounded with an increasingly busy travel schedule, but DeMarko doesn't sweat his rising demand.

"It's just one of those things when you see it, you're like, 'Wow, I don't believe that it's happening to me. This is what I want and it's what I've been working toward.'"

The glut of press over the DJ has often referred to his musical style of "braiding," mixing music from several different genres into one seamless beat. But DeMarko admits he's not wild about the term. "Really it's what a lot of DJs do," he says. "I'll put another beat behind a more familiar song, mixing up the genres. But my genre is tribal house. These boys, they need their vocals. God forbid if you don't play some vocals, you'll hear about it the next day!"

Though he's definitely made himself at home in the DJ booth, DeMarko has also recently gotten comfortable in the production studio. Using the name Menergy (along with two collaborators), his remixes of tracks by Inaya Day, Taylor Dayne and Kevin Aviance have landed on *Billboard's* dance charts.

During his childhood in Canada DeMarko says he was usually the only black kid around, and racism wasn't something he experienced until moving the States. Even now he's reluctant to theorize why the circuit remains a largely Caucasian affair — at least in terms of who's playing the records.

"Other than myself, I only know of a few other black DJs. There's the almighty Frankie Knuckles and also Chad Jack. I don't want to speculate why there aren't more, really. I will say this: It's very hard to do this. It really takes a lot of an investment, and if you're not dedicated you won't make it."

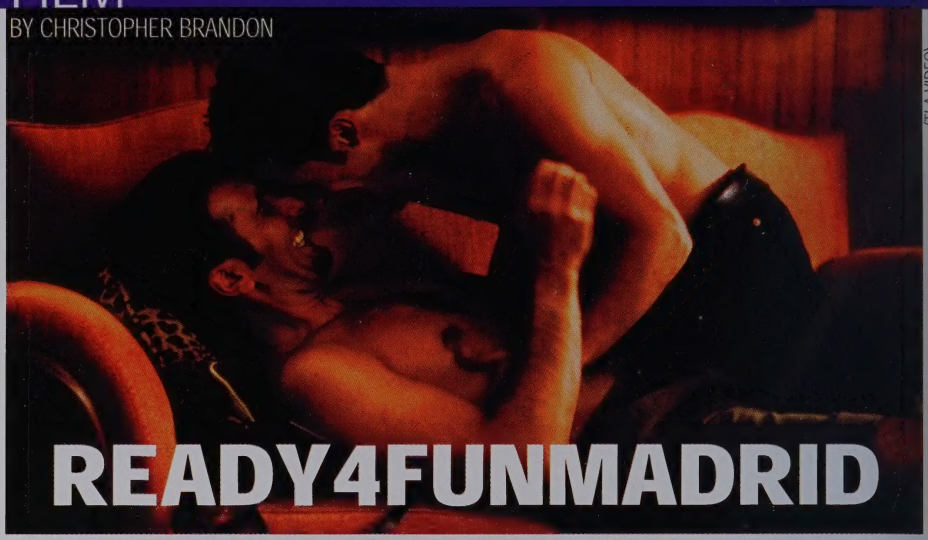
That dedication, given DeMarko's remarkable recovery and reinvention of himself, must be working. The former model-turned music maestro seems on the verge of widespread exposure after paying his dues.

"Is that was I was doing all this time?" he quips. "I was just having fun."

DJ DeMarko performs Sat., March 20, at Blu, 960 Spring St. www.bluatlanta.com. For more on DeMarko, visit www.projectpublicity.com.

(PROJECT PUBLICITY INC.)

BY CHRISTOPHER BRANDON



(TLA VIDEO)

A mixed cast of horny Spaniards collide in Km. 0

THEY MUST HAVE MANHUNT IN MADRID.

That's one of the many things you'll learn in *Km. 0* an exciting sex farce from Spain that's already made the rounds at international film festivals and is now available on DVD.

The title "Kilometer Zero" refers to the famous landmark at the center of Madrid, from which all distances within Spain are measured. It's a natural meeting place, and apparently it's where everyone in Spain hooks up. Make note if you're planning a trip this summer.

On a sweltering hot day, the lives of 14 gay and straight Spaniards collide at Kilometer 0, which is where they've each agreed to meet. This coincidence leads to a comedy of errors reminiscent of Robert Altman flicks. Missed connections and mistaken identities lead to some hot afternoon sexcapades and even a few cutesy romantic couplings.

There's an eager, young film director who accidentally hires a prostitute he's mistaken for his sister's friend. A would-be bride gets robbed while buying a gift for her apathetic fiancé. An endearing older woman orders a male escort and later discovers he may be her long lost son. (Ewww!) And then there's the gay dance instructor who finds a trick online but picks up the wrong guy at the meeting place. This is why you must share face pics if you're going to cruise the Web.

Amazingly, the film fully develops all 14 characters in just under two hours. Most Hollywood movies barely develop two characters. They're well rounded, and each one is delightful. You can't help but root for all of them to fall in love — or at least get off.

It's low budget and lightweight, but a superbly told story. The movie juggles each of its many plot lines with surefire pacing, and the acting is marvelous. No single character outshines the others because they're all so nicely portrayed, though most gay viewers will likely take to the dancer with the hot body.

American audiences will be surprised — and delighted — by how it handles gay and straight plotlines with no discernable preference. It's a refreshing change from films produced Stateside that appear to be made strictly for gay or straight audiences. Ultimately, this is not a gay movie or a straight movie. Even the straight guy who gets hit on by a horny gay man seems unfazed, and they become buddies. It's like "Queer Eye for the Spanish Guy."

By the end, it all gets a tad too weird and strays into Euro-artsy territory. A psychotic — but lovable! — policeman appears. At its silliest moment, one of the gay characters reveals that he's actually a guardian angel. Somewhere, Frank Capra's thinking, "Every time a homo zings, an angel gets its wings."

Km. 0, *in Spanish with English subtitles, is available through TLA Video. www.tlavideo.com*

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BY BRIAN SUBER

WAITING GAME

Beckett classic draws top marks for 7 Stages

Don Finney (left), Daniel Pettrow and Del Hamilton in *Waiting for Godot* at 7 Stages. (Yvonne Boyd)

IN *WAITING FOR GODOT*, SAMUEL BECKETT built from scraps a classic work of theater that has been described as a play in which nothing happens. Think: a dark "Seinfeld" where characters meet and speak, fight and falter, are harassed and hopeful but answer nothing. Nothing is ever resolved. As the opening line dictates: There is nothing to be done.

In Estragon (Don Finney) and Vladimir (7 Stages Artistic Director Del Hamilton), the central characters in the play, there's a sense of hopelessness mingled with optimism, dark emptiness marked by depth and marred by a sense of isolation. Many consider the two characters representative of man and his conscience — one more dark than the other, but both hopeless.

The men linger, hope for something better and kill time as they await an elusive Godot. They quarrel, quote, cry, laugh, fall, crawl and remember times past. As days turn to nights and back to days, they do nothing.

Beckett's classic first premiered in 1953 in post-war Paris and is shot through with religious, social and cultural images, despite being staged with few adornments, the work takes on much and gives the audience even more to ponder.

Told in two acts that represent immeasurable time, not much changes for Didi (Vladimir) and Gogo (Estragon) as they return to their old tree, now flowering with small plants, and wait again for the coming of Godot.

The two tramps are visited by a wealthy man, Pozzo (Bruce Evers), and his drooling, beaten-down, golden-haired, "pig" slave, Lucky (Daniel Pettrow), who performs a perfect marionette as he serves his master at the end of a noose.

At one point, encouraged by Vladimir and Estragon to dance and then "think," Lucky bursts into a litany of thoughts that come as rapid as machine gun fire and as seemingly unconnected as a James Joyce novel.

The playwright dismissed what seems like overt religious themes in *Godot* but many believe that the unseen title character represents a very distant God and the two men, mankind. Godot's only appearance is twice by an angelic young boy (Evan O'Reilly),

who says Godot won't come today, but will come tomorrow, then signals the ending day.

In the masterful hands of director Walter Asmus, this production is pitch perfect, with staging and acting both right on. Asmus worked directly with Beckett on a touring show of Godot in 1974 and his closeness with the playwright pays off handsomely during this production.

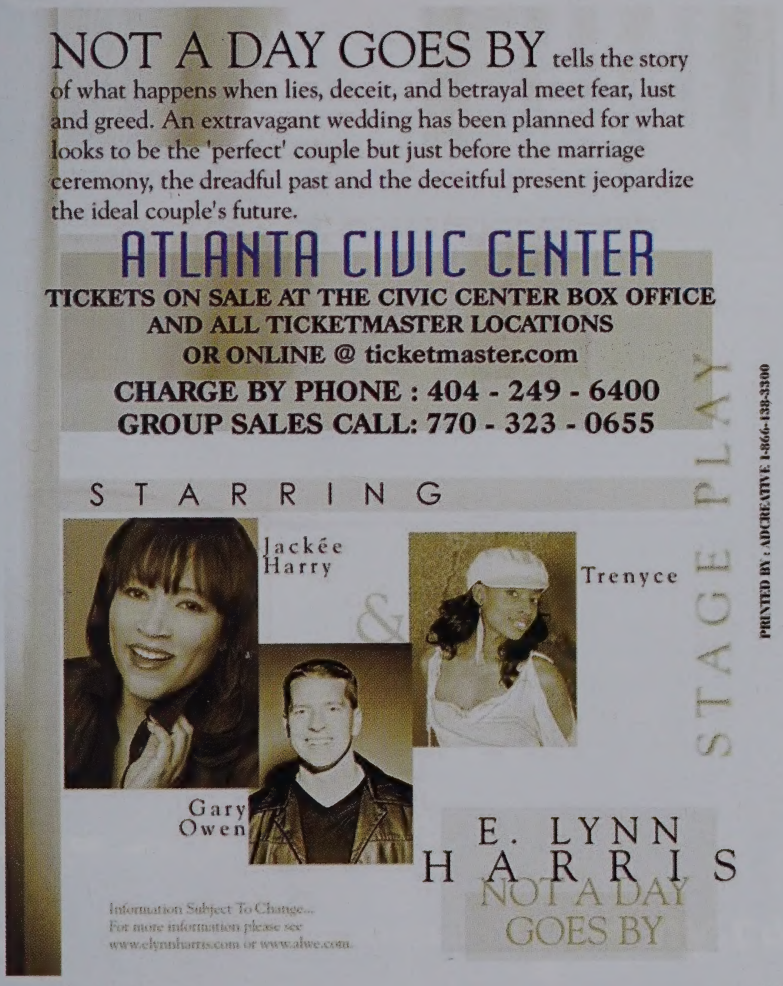
The actors who embody Beckett's famed characters are phenomenal and immediately pull in and hold the audience with their performances. Finney as Estragon is first-rate, bemoaning his existence as Vladimir looks semi-hopefully to another day.

Hamilton's performance is magical. He shuffles across the stage, his words echoing through the audience, his face a patchwork of emotion, his skill incomparable.

Evers as Pozzo embodies the character body and soul, at turns hard and cold, next weak and collapsing. Pettrow's Lucky is a jaw-dropping miracle. The actor gets better and better with every performance, proving a range and skill that is tops in Atlanta theater.

Beckett has never been easy and *Waiting for Godot* is no small feat to tackle. By remaining faithful to the playwright's genius, utilizing the inside knowledge of director Asmus, and playing 150 percent to the strengths of the actors, this production is by and far the best performance of the existential theater classic this writer has ever staged.

Waiting for Godot *runs through April 4 at 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. April 4. www.7stages.org. 404-523-7647.*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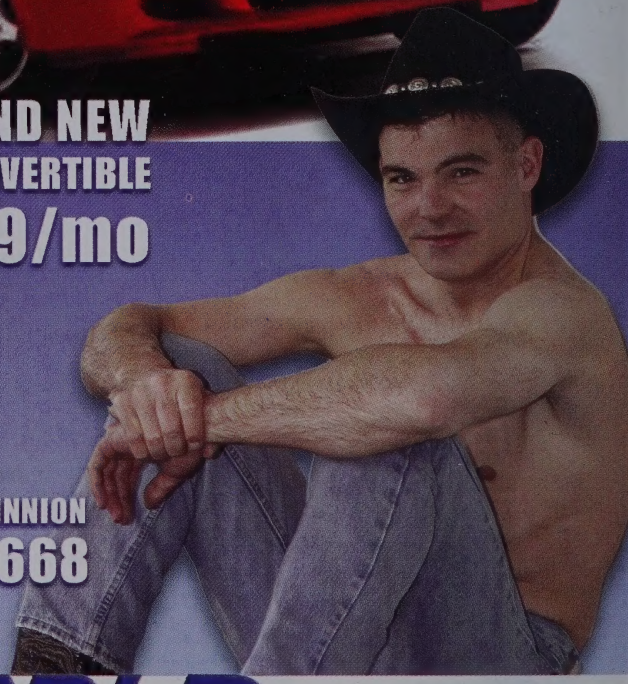

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BY ARJAN TIMMERMANS

JEM DANDY

Welsh singer's debut CD sparkles — just don't compare her to Dido

(MICHAEL LAVINE)

JEM COULDN'T BELIEVE HER EARS WHEN she first heard Madonna's rendition of "Nothing Fails." The Welsh musician had co-written the song nearly two years earlier with famed producer Guy Sigsworth, who then passed the track on to the Material Mom. "Nothing Fails" surfaced on Madonna's *American Life* album, and helped propel Jem into the international spotlight.

"I heard it for the first time in (Madonna's) manager's boardroom and I thought to myself, 'This is the weirdest thing," Jem tells *David* from her home in West London. "It was a surreal moment."

Next week Jem's long-anticipated debut album, *Finally Woken*, hits stores, released on Dave Matthews' ATO Records. The spunky British singer/songwriter holds a middle ground between the tender melancholy of Sarah McLachlan and the emo-filled electropop of Dido, which may explain why the early buzz on her is very promising.

The album's first single, "They," was prominently featured on Apple iTunes' music store, and influential Los Angeles radio station KCRW has added the song to its rotation. On top of this Fox decided to use her music for its new dramatic series "Wonderfalls."

Finally Woken is a progressive mix of catchy pop, hip-hop and electronica. The singer's distinct songwriting appears simplistic, but has an appealing and deeply emotional intensity. Songs such as "Just a Ride," "Finally Woken" and the single "They" all reflect Jem's positive and pragmatic outlook on life.

Her interest in music emerged when she worked as a DJ agent and party promoter in Brighton, England. In 1999 she wanted to pursue her own artistic ambitions and moved to London to collaborate with a number of writers/producers, including Sigsworth. Some of her early demo tracks were played on pop radio in L.A. that eventually sparked the interest of ATO Records.

Given Jem's background, it comes as no surprise that the singer takes a keen interest in hip-hop and dance music.

"I usually prefer a backing with strong beats and baselines," she says. "I'd put my songs under pop because of my emphasis on melody and the consistent structure of the songs, which makes it quite hooky."

Jem worked with hip-hop producer Ge-ology (Mos Def, Talib Kweli) and producer Yoad Nevo to give her album an eclectic, hip flavor.

"Yoad has a lot of crazy instruments on the wall in his studio," she says. "When we recorded a song we tried to figure out what it was calling for and then we just picked out an instrument from the wall that we added."

She finds it hard to describe her music to people not familiar with her sound. Maybe that's a good problem to have, she says, because that means it's different. Shelve it under "popular music," she finally says.

Some might compare Jem to other British vocalists like Dido or Beth Orton. Jem appreciates "the lovely comparison" but doesn't entirely agree.

"The only thing we have in common is that we have a soft voice and that we are from the UK," she says. "Musically I don't see many similarities."

Rightfully, Jem's music is more upbeat than Dido's gloomy songwriting.

"I'm an eternal optimist, which doesn't mean I haven't seen a lot of shit," she says. "You just have to appreciate every second of your life."

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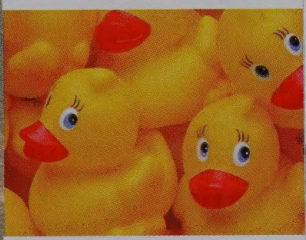

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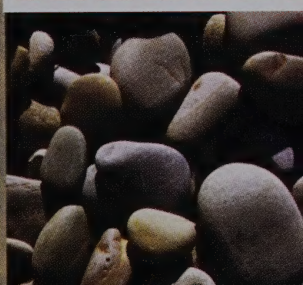

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DATEBOOK

BY BRIAN SUBER

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

Stop complaining about sitting at home with nothing to do after a week of heavy labor. Saturday night is it in Atlanta, with several choices for a weekend wind-down.

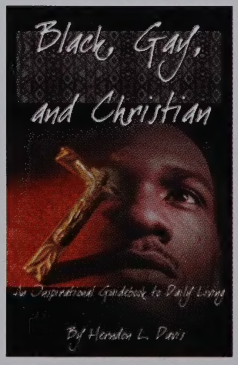
WINED AND DINED

The High's annual **"A Taste for Wine"** returns with gallery tours, a wine tasting and culinary session. What could be more fun than drinking wine that's not from a box and learning to cook something more than eggs. *High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree St., March 20. 7 p.m.-11 p.m. $6-$600. www.high.org*

KINDA LIKE STALKING, BUT NOT

By now, the shine has worn off your fave Valentine and you've no doubt had your eye on someone new. Now you can tell them how you feel without saying a word. **The Mark**, Atlanta's hot "hotel-bar-without-a-hotel" venue is hosting **Crush** on March 20. Simply give the organizers the contact information of your eye candy and let them do the rest. Who knows, maybe you'll hook up and if not, there are always complimentary drinks from 9 p.m.-11 p.m. to numb the pain of rejection. *The Mark, 79 Poplar St. March 20, 9 p.m. 678-904-0050.www.themarkatlanta.com*

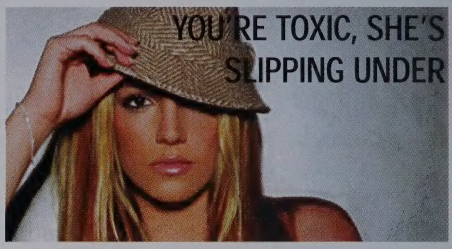
SALVATION ON PEACHTREE



Who needs *The Passion of the Christ* when you've got Herndon L. Davis? The Atlanta author got so tired of sitting through sermons preaching homophobia that he decided to write a book affirming his own spiritual beliefs. Davis appears March 20 to sign *Black, Gay & Christian: An Inspirational Guidebook to Daily Living.* *Bulldogs Bar, 893 Peachtree St. Free. 6 p.m.-8 p.m. 404-872-3025. www.blackgaychristian.com*

CHARDONNAY SPRINGS ETERNAL

Montevina Winery, the hot new grape producer about town, will host a wine tasting and community social, **"Rights of Spring,"** at Einstein's on March 21. The no-cost benefit event will feature food and drink specials, wine tasting and a chance to meet and greet your neighbors. For every glass sold, the wine maker will donate $.25 to HRC. Getting tipsy and making difference — it's the American way. *Einstein's Restaurant, 1077 Juniper St. March 21, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Free. 404-355-8910.*



The Bodacious Miss B (Britney, that is) will return to the ATL to show even more skin and sing even more of her sweet bubble-gum pop on March 23. Expect mucho scream queen booty shaking and lip synching (from the crowd as well). Don't act like you don't have every album she's ever done, Mary, we've seen your CD collection. *Philips Arena. March 23, 7:30 p.m. $40.50-$76. 404-878-3000. www.philipsarena.com*

NOTES FROM THE PEN

Stage and film star Lynn Redgrave comes to

Atlanta for a limited run of ***The Exonerated***, a play about six innocent survivors of death row. Playwrights Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen interviewed 40 former prisoners before penning the script, which became an Off-Broadway hit that's still running in NYC. Eric Roberts also stars. Sure, Martha's not going to death row, but maybe she could get a few survival tips. *March 23-25. $40-$50. Ferst Center for the Arts, 349 Ferst Dr., Georgia Tech. 404-834-9600. www.ferstcenter.org*

HOT DATES

03.18 **The Atlanta Executive Network hosts SunTrust CEO J. Scott Wilfong:** Schmooze and build your contacts. Who is a better friend than a banker? *Sheraton Midtown at Colony Square. $10-$20. www.aen.org*

03.19 ***Drinking & Writing* at Dad's Garage:** Cutting-edge drama from Chicago's Neofuturists. *Dad's Garage Theatre, 280 Elizabeth St. 8 p.m. $15. 404-523-3141. www.dadsgarage.com*

03.23 **Young Adult Discussion Groups:** YouthPride hosts separate weekly group meetings for women and men 18-24 years old. *YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave, Decatur. Free. 404-378-7722. www.youthpride.org.*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

WED 03.17

ARMORY. Pandemonium. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Michael Roberts, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Rob Reum 1 a.m.-7 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Kiss My Shamrock: St. Patrick's Day party with Bacardi Boys. The Lust & the Bust, starring Lena Lust, Shawna Brooks and Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke jackpot, 10 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
CHAPARRAL. Flamin'Hot Wednesdays with hot buds, go-go boys, contests.
CLUB 708. Open mic night, 10 p.m. Mini-Ball drag show, 2 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge
HERETIC. Drop your top and join the crowd at dress code party, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Menergy male dancers, 11 p.m.
METRO. Maxine Blue hosts Urban Spin featuring DJ Jones. 10 p.m. Drag show at 11:30 p.m. starring Feleshia Sapphire, Yanae Van Michaels and guests.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Karaoke, 10 p.m.

Ruby Redd hosts "Comedy Alert" Thurs., March 18, at the Metro. Expect her announcement to join this year's race to the White House.

OSCARS. Comedy night, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. "The L Word," 8 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m., $2 after 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
VISION. Skin and Sin Wednesdays. Open bar 10-11 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

THU 03.18

BACKSTREET. Michael Roberts 10 p.m.-2 a.m. and Brett Long 2 a.m., Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 12 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Absolut Thursdays. 10 p.m.
The Breaking Point. Karaoke Idol jackpot
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix with Martina Diamante, Savannah Lee, Alicia Kelly
CLUB 708. Trade Thursdays plus Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Bad Boy Thursday, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear party, 10 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
HERETIC. Experience Rapture dance party
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, 8 p.m., Ladies Night
LE BUZZ. Court of Kings drag kings, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.
METRO. "Ruby Redd's Comedy Alert" with Ivanna Bottom, Amber Divine and Wild Cherry Sucret. DJ Randy starts spinning at 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Talent search, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Alternating open-mic and singer-songwriter night.
OSCARS. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
TRIPPS. Country night with Ron and Mike
WETBAR. Suede. Free well drinks 11 p.m.-12 a.m.

FRI 03.19

ARMORY. Girls night out. Le Femme Royale starring Savannah Leigh, with Sophia McIntosh, Paula Sinclair and Tina Devore, 11:30 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 11 p.m. Bill Berdeaux midnight-7 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 7 p.m.
BLU. DJ Brian Beck.
THE BREAKING POINT. Out In Country: country music night with free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. International gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m. Blackout Fridays.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. Sweat, 10 p.m.- 3 a.m.
MARY'S. Danceteria. 9 p.m.
METRO. "Rags to Riches" game starring Martina Diamante with Joe and Angel, 12 a.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Live music, special events.
RED CHAIR. See what all the talk is about.
TRIPPS. Disco night, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

SAT 03.20

ARMORY. Le Femme Royale starring Savannah Leigh, with Sophia McIntosh, Paula Sinclair and Tina Devore, 11:30 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 11 p.m. Rob Reum midnight-7 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Videos.
BLU. DJ DeMarko.
THE BREAKING POINT. Cabaret show, drag fights.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with Men of Jaguar
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
LE BUZZ. Miss LeBuzz 2004 Pageant, "Queens of the Desert"
MARY'S. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
METRO. "Las Bugambilias" Latin revue with Miss Atlanta Latina Italia Franco with Monica Botas and Rebecca Duval, 12 a.m.
MODEL T. Model Teez Girlz drag show, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Dance party.
SWINING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRAXX. Legendary Traxx Night hip-hop, 10 p.m. Male revue show, third floor, 12 a.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

SUN 03.21

ARMORY. Spiritual Vibe Dance Party, 6 p.m. Open at 12:30 a.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 12 a.m. Bill Berdeux, Rob Reum
BLAKE'S. Blake's Big Time drag review. 9 p.m.
BLU. Gospel Tea with DJ Brian Beck.
BUDDIES. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip-hop gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Social night, open until midnight.
EAGLE. Open until midnight.
HOEDOWN'S. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
MODEL T. Café Zone 3 jazz show, 10 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Brunch, all you can eat gourmet

buffet, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Red Chair Revue starring Bubba D. Licious, 9 p.m.

MON 03.22

ARMORY. Karaoke with Patrick, 9:30 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Energy drag show with Monica Van Pelt, Heather Daniels, Lauren La Masters, and Martina Diamante, 3 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Bottomless well drinks, 10-11 p.m. Drag Races , 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool.
BUDDIES. Free pool until 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Music Trivia, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. LeGirlzz of LeBuzz drag show. Free pool.
METRO. Monday Madness with Louie Spetrini.
NICKIEMOTO'S. Dragamaki with Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and weekly guests.
OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
TRAXX. Stars of the Century female illusion show, doors open 10:30 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3a.m.

TUE 03.23

ARMORY. Drag show, 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Twisted Tuesdays. 10 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool, game night
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Oldies & Goodies night '70s and '80s hip-hop and R&B, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia Challenge, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin
MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
METRO. DJ Martin's Latin House, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
OSCARS. Showtune Tuesday.
RED CHAIR. Dinner and a Movie, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRAXX. Thugged Out Tuesday Night hip-hop, doors open 11 p.m.

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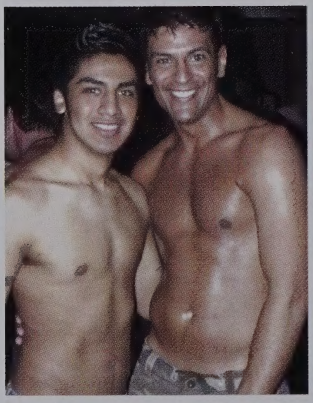
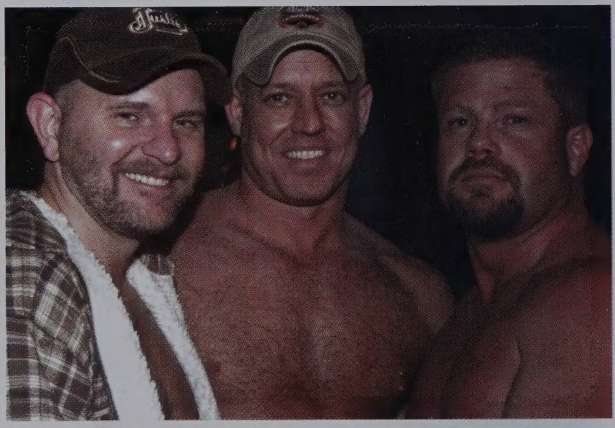
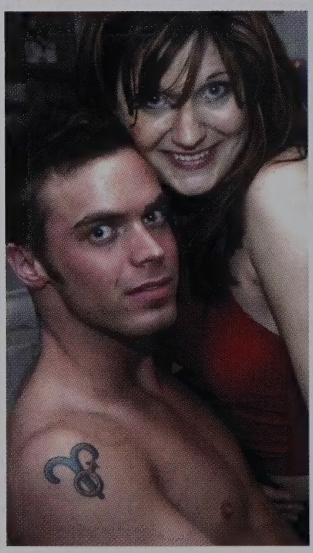
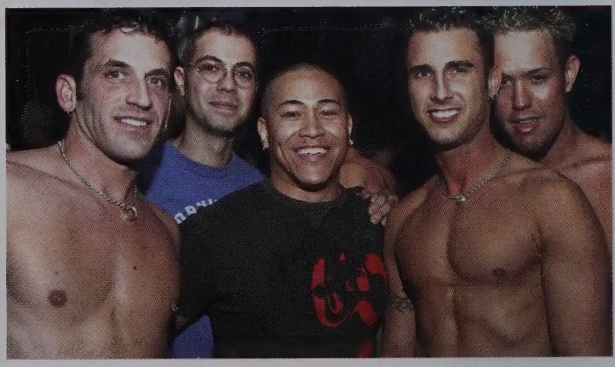
PHOTOS: RUSS YOUNGBLOOD









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Monday March 20
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w/Louie Spetrini
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Tuesday March 20
DJ Martin's **Latin House**

Saturday March 20
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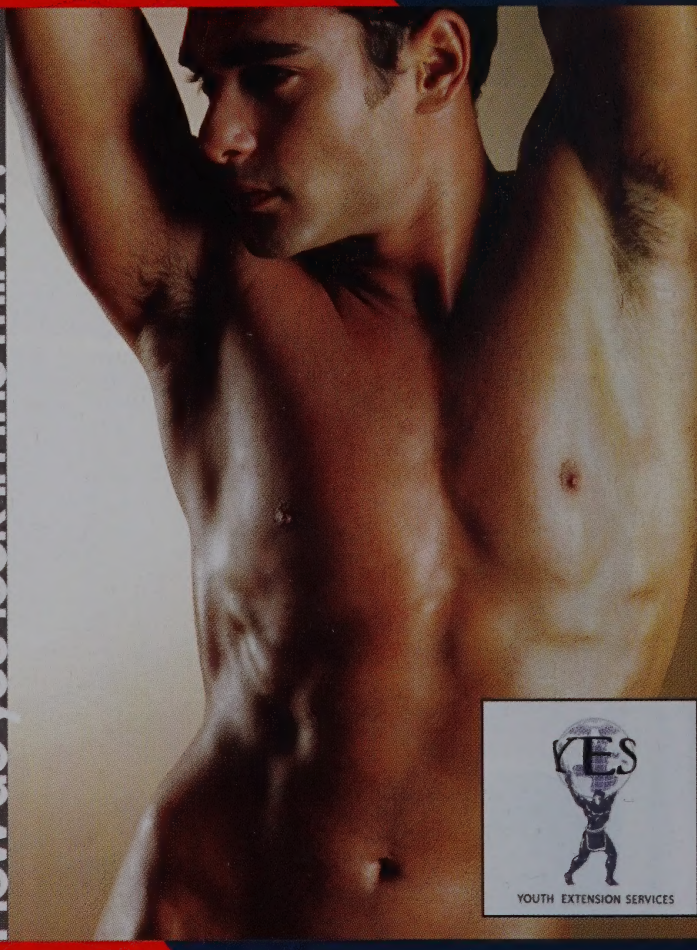
How do you look in the mirror?



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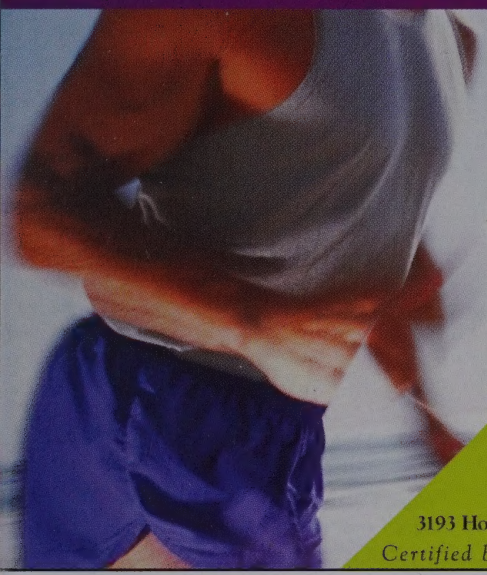

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BY CHRISTOPHER STEVENS

Nuclia Waste (left) cavorts with the Marquis de Marshmallow in Jackson, Miss.

EVERY INCH A QUEEN

My annual pilgrimage to make merry with the Sweet Potato Queens

EACH MARCH I FIND MYSELF traveling as valet to the Marquis de Marshmallow on his annual visit to Jackson, Miss. We go there to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with his good friends, the Sweet Potato Queens, and other regal personages from across the country.

In case you haven't heard of the Sweet Potato Queens, first of all shame on you, and second check out www.sweetpotatoqueens.com to read all about HRH Jill Conner Browne. Her book, *The Sweet Potato Queens Book of Love*, has inspired thousands of women (and a few men) around the world to discover their inner Queen and an oft-overlooked ability to have, and to be, a hell of a lot of fun. This ability is made manifest at the Saint Paddy's Day parade in Jackson, which serves as the Queens' annual convention. It resembles nothing so much as an gathering of more than usually pleasant drag queens, except that 99 percent of the attendees are "real girls" whom you wouldn't know from your own mother the rest of the year. In fact, I think I saw your mother there, and she looked marvelous.

There are Margarita Queens, Proper Prom Queens, Dairy Queens (with udder purses), Georgia Peach Queens, Mermaid Queens, Liquid Lunch Queens, Hot Dog Queens, Krispy Kweens, and hundreds of others. Since the publication of *The Book of Love* and its two best-selling sequels, Jacksonians are getting used to this annual influx of sequined and bewigged madwomen. At times it sounds like orientation at college, except that instead of, "What's yer major," everyone is saying, "Oooo! What kind of queen are you?" College orientation is much more awkward, though, because everyone is terrified of somehow looking silly, whereas with the Queens silliness is the whole point.

Male royalty is a rare commodity, and the Marquis is made much of by the Queens. You'd love him, too, if you met him. He's a tall, comely fellow, his scepter, shield and two crowns (a dainty circlet for casual day wear and a large, Imperial Margarine-style rig for State occasions) bedecked with many precious gems ($2.99 for a pack of 50 at Wal-mart), and festooned with gilded marshmallows, regular and mini.

The elaborate Marshmallow crest contains the two casserole-related family mottoes: "Sweet Potatoes are Happier with Me on Top," and, "You Be Hot, I'll Be Sweet, Let's Get Sticky in The Heat." He's distantly related to the Count of Cock-A-Dude'll Do, and has made a particular friend of NuClia Waste, the Princess of Plutonium (www.nucliawaste.com). These are much taken with the (somewhat unexpected) charms of Jackson, not least of which is Hal & Mal's, a warehouse-size nightspot featuring home-brewed beers, and urinals painted to look like motorcycles.

The Queens make a four-day holiday of the parade, including a luncheon, a karaoke

party, a Sweet Potato Queens Ball, a PJ's and Pearls party, and a grand brunch (of decidedly un-dietetic foods). Oh, these ladies know how to eat, drink, and party. In a very refined way, of course.

The parade is central to the weekend, as it provides an opportunity for the Queens to be properly adored by throngs of people, and what's the point of being a Queen without that? The parade is a little scary, to be honest. As at Mardi Gras, many parade participants throw trinkets to the crowd, but the crowd wants those trinkets way too much, as if they were receiving something of inestimable value that they would treasure for the rest of their lives.

The Marquis, with shield and scepter to contend with, could not toss trinkets even if he saw the sense in doing so, and quite obviously has none to give. This does not stop the demands. Referring to his gem- and marshmallow-encrusted scepter, people yell, "Gimme yer fork!"

Fork, indeed. Being a Marquis, he simply nods regally, and graciously waves the scepter, too polite to say what he thinks, which is, "I'm sorry, but your very appearance implies a prescription for 'No Sharp Objects.'"

Be that as it may, the parade weekend (March 18-21 this year) is a reliable curative at the end of a bleak winter. Why, one year we arrived in Jackson only to have an entire wheel fall off the Marquis's carriage, and last year I (poor excuse for a valet) forgot to pack half the Count's regalia, and we still had a royally wild time.

The Queens, after all, are all about having fun. If you wait for others to make you happy, they have found, you'll get a lot of wait and very little happy. The Queens excel at living this philosophy. The Marquis suggests you get yourself a regal persona and a tasteful tiara (or a garish one, if that makes you happy), stuff yourself and your entourage (you do have one, don't you?) into an available coach-and-four, and head to Jackson for madness, margaritas and a lesson in the Happiness of Queenliness.

Christopher Stevens can be found, feverishly stitching ermine on the Marquis's new Spring ensemble, at wwww.hedidwhat.com.

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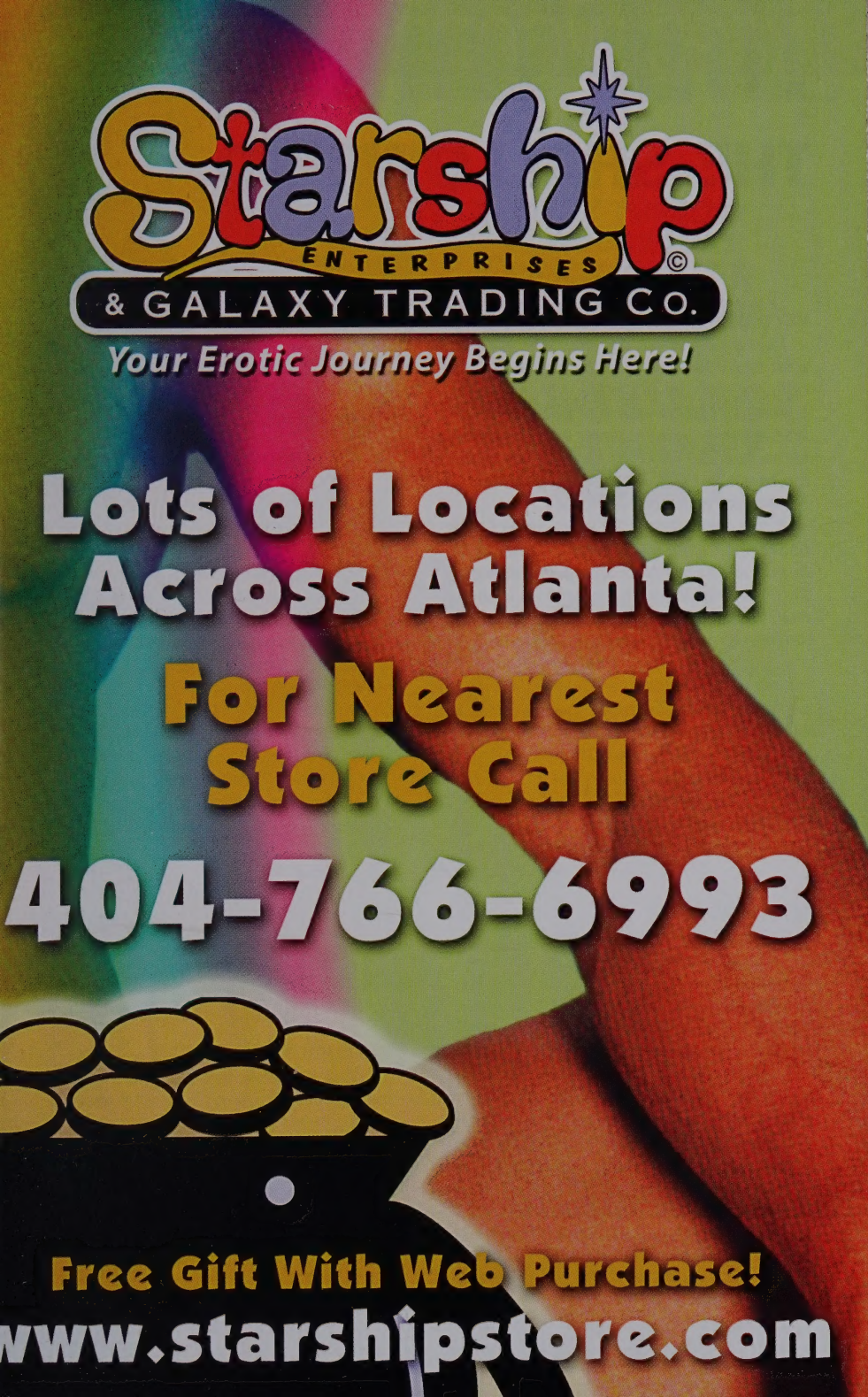
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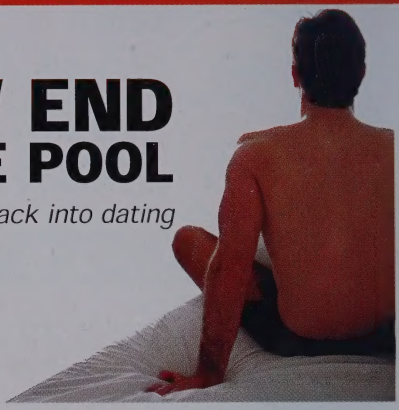
NEED WOOD?

BY WOODY MILLER

THE SHALLOW END OF THE POOL

How to dive back into dating



HEY WOODY!

I am a 36-year-old gay man who is feeling a bit lost. I have been with only three different men my whole life. My last was a seven-year relationship that ended when he was killed by a drunk driver while on his way home from the office. It has taken a while for me to get back into the dating pool, but I'm feeling like a fish out of water.

It has been almost 10 years since I have dated and I am a bit shocked/confused at how much things have changed. Judging from the four dates I have been on it seems that the majority of gay men today are either seeking casual sex/quickies/one-niters, or looking for guys much younger me. Not having had any sexual encounters since my boyfriend died three years ago has not made this transition any easier for me either.

I do not want to spend the rest of my life alone and was hoping that you, or any of your readers, would be able to steer me in the direction where I might find someone seeking more than just a screw. Any ideas?

— Wanting more

DEAR MORE:

Christ, I hate letters like this because it requires all the skills I lack: kindness, compassion, empathy. I only like doing the pat-pat, there-there, everything'll-be-alright thing if it makes people vulnerable enough for me to cop a feel without getting punched.

The first thing you've got to do is own how lonely you are without making the world around you wrong. It's easy to blame being dateless on the shallowness of gay men, on their bullshit game-playing and the fact that they're all cock-crazy sluts.

Wait. Where was I going with this?

Anyway, here's my four-step plan for you:

1. **CRY.** My heart ached reading your story. Can't imagine living it. You need to release the sadness and grief of going so many years without a man's touch. Like giving head, you need to do it often and do it well.
2. **PARTY WITH OTHER SINGLE FRIENDS.** Don't go to bars or events alone. Hang out with other single guys. Besides, the next best thing to meeting potential boyfriends is bitching about not meeting potential boyfriends. And for that you need single friends willing to trade loser sob stories.
3. **GO OUT.** True love will fall in your lap but only if you take your lap places. Nothing's going to happen at home.
4. **VISUALIZE.** What you think about expands (why do you think my jeans are so swollen?). Dwelling on the negative will bring you more negatives. Dwelling on all the decent, good-looking guys you'll meet will bring more opportunities to meet decent, good-looking guys.

HEY, WOODY!

I want to bulk up. My boyfriend says the best way to do that is to fuck him as much as possible because sex releases testosterone, which helps gain muscle mass. Is that true?

— Not that I mind

DEAR NOT MIND:

What a sneaky, manipulative power bottom your boyfriend is. God, if only we could clone him.

Keep fucking him, but don't think for a minute you're going to bulk up because of it. First, sex burns calories. Second, testosterone is NOT released by sex. It's the other way around. Testosterone is a major component in creating sexual desire.

Woody is the author of Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon. *He can be reached at woody@menrpigs.cc*

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ation 1:2<1>>>By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. Hebrews 9:12>>>How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Hebrews 9:14>>>We now have access to God's Presence by the Blood of Jesus. Hebrews 10:19>>>And, we have peace through the blood of his cross. Hebrews 1:20>>>It is the blood that maketh an atonemen
for the soul Leviticus 17:11>>>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16>>>For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

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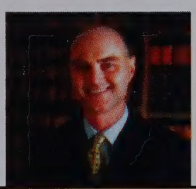

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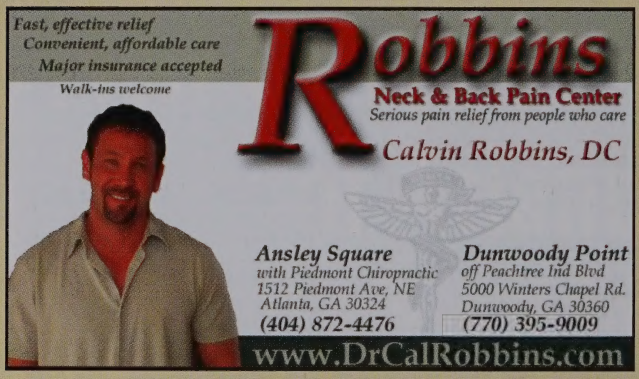

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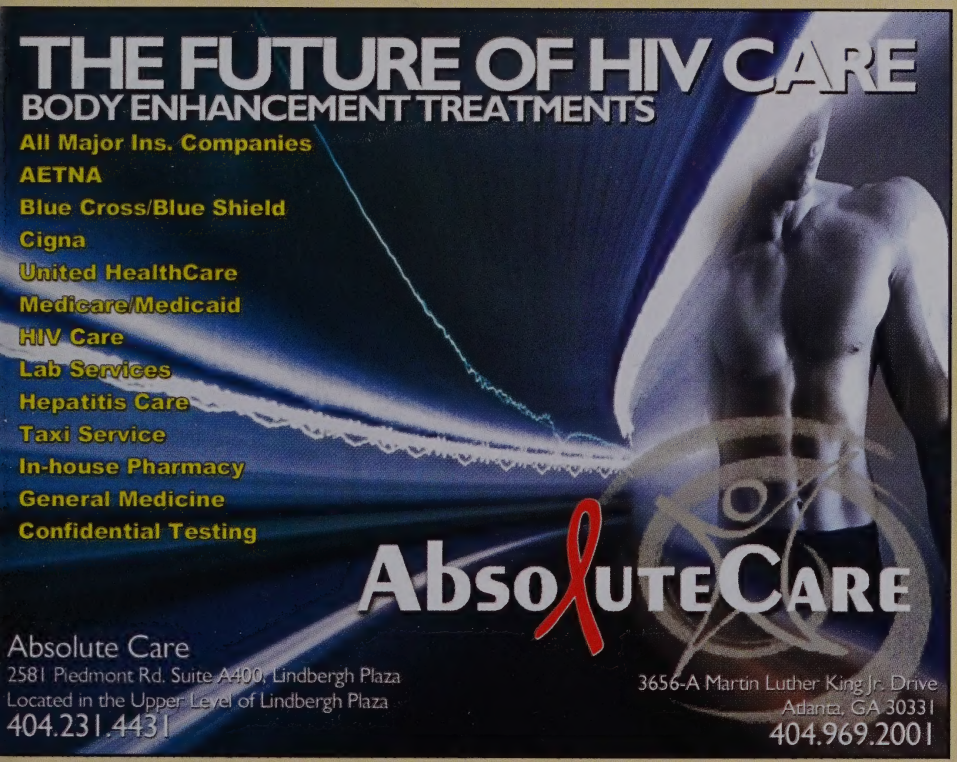

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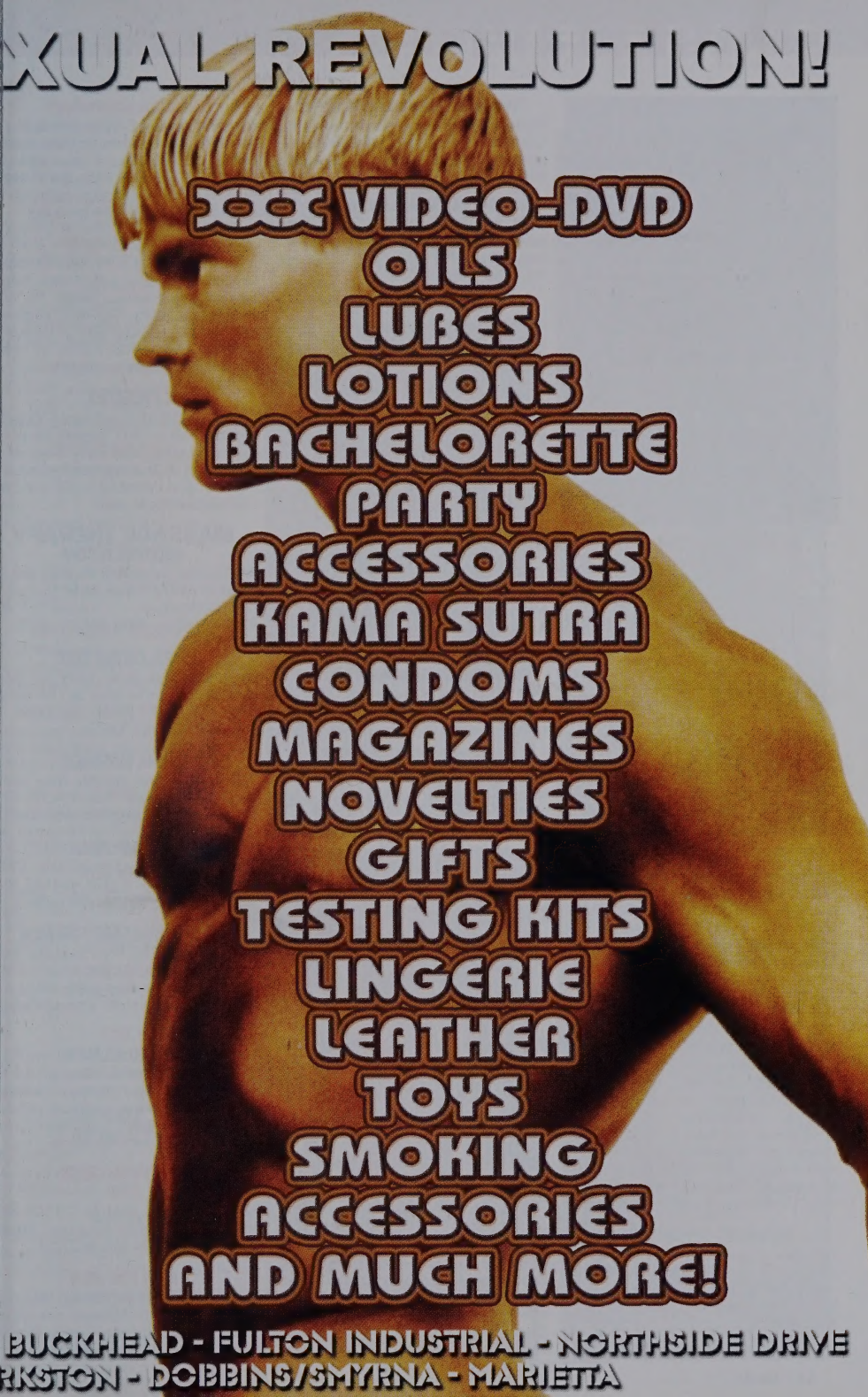
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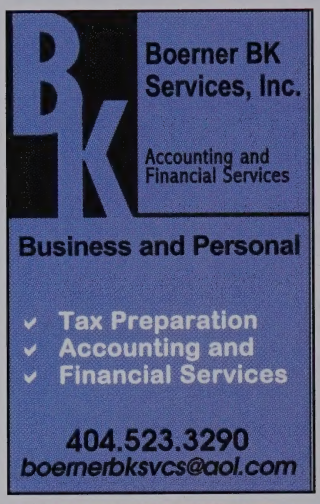

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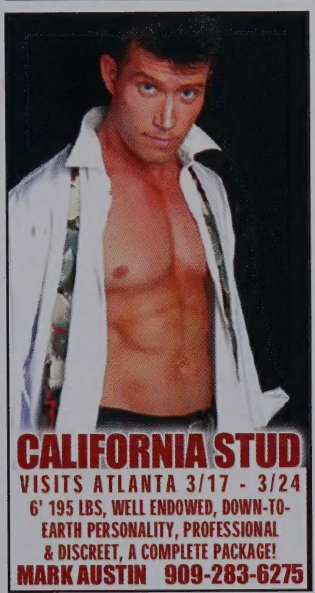
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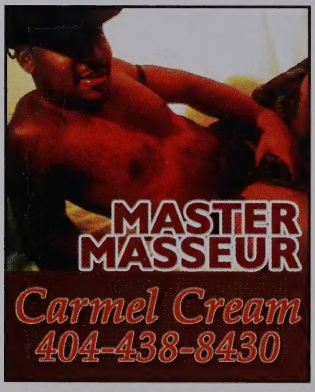

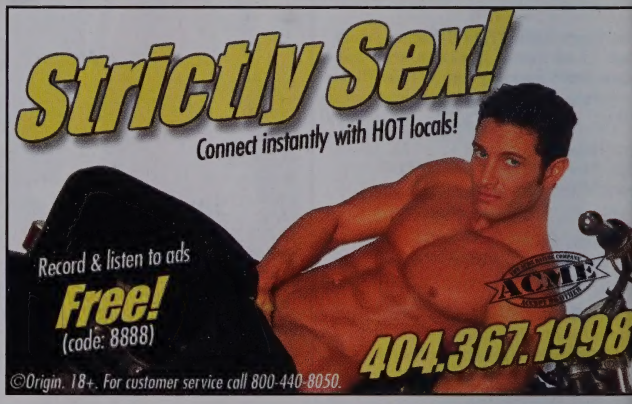

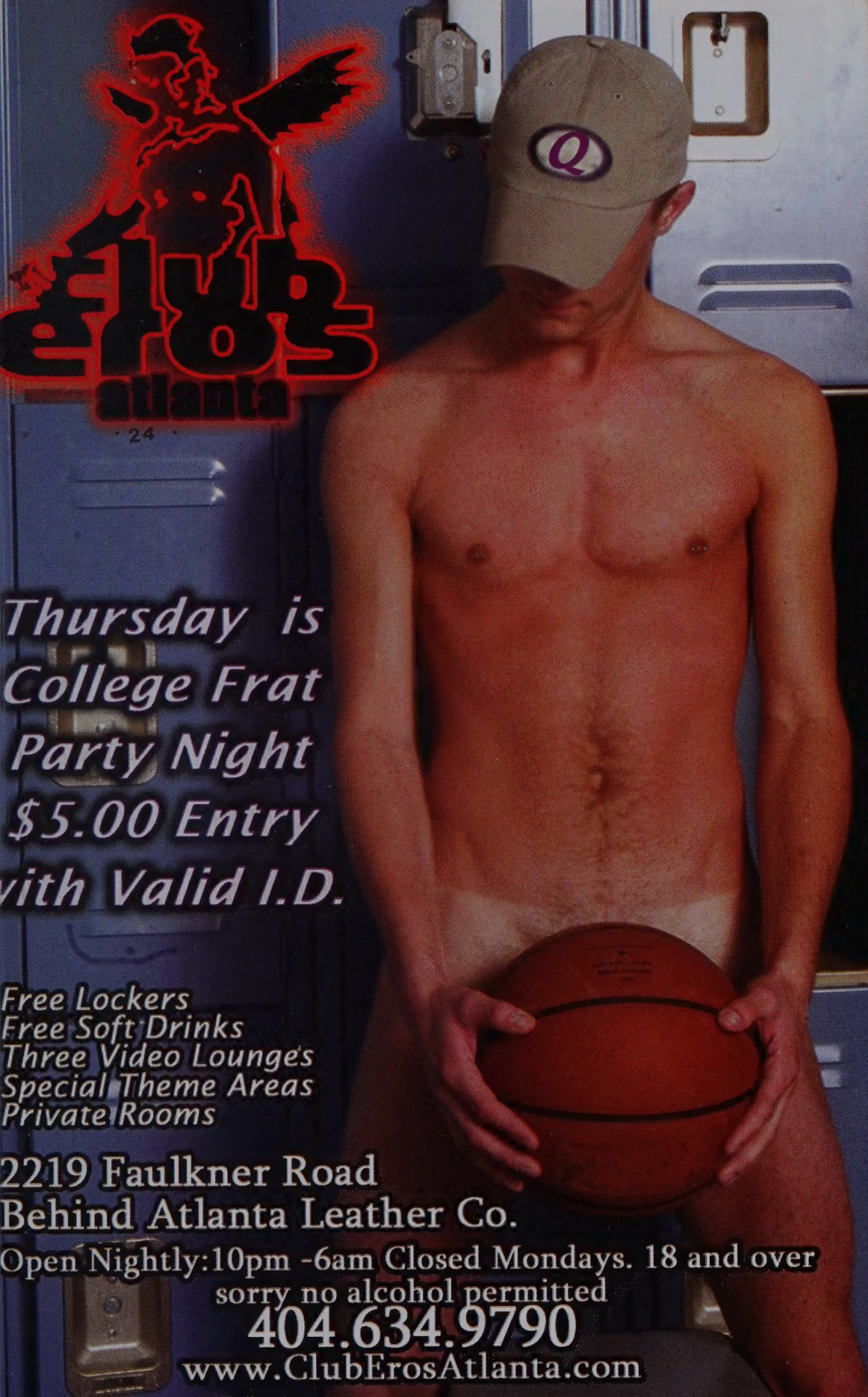
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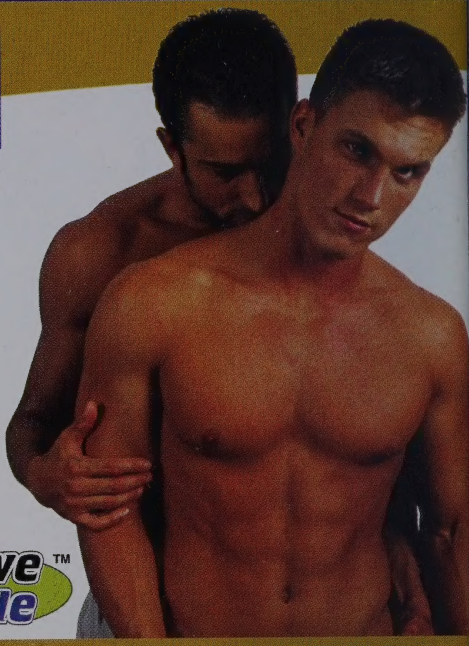

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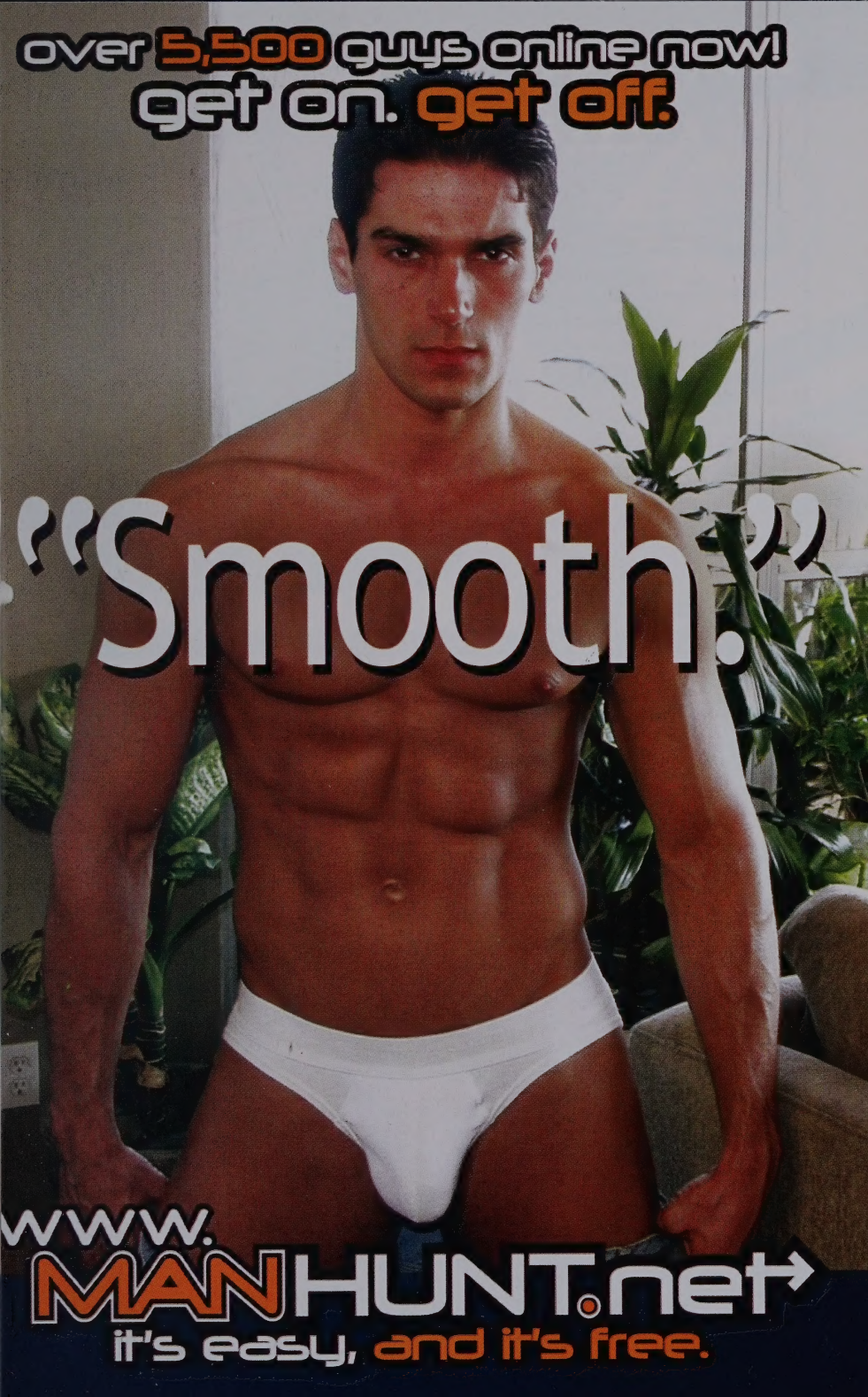
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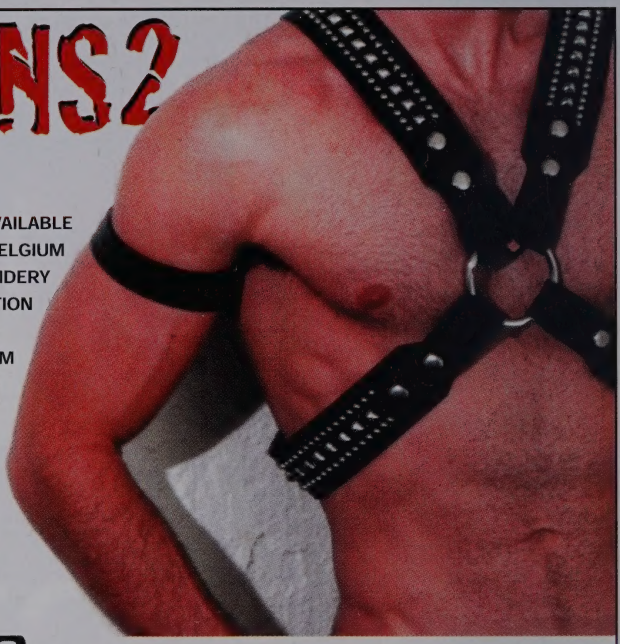

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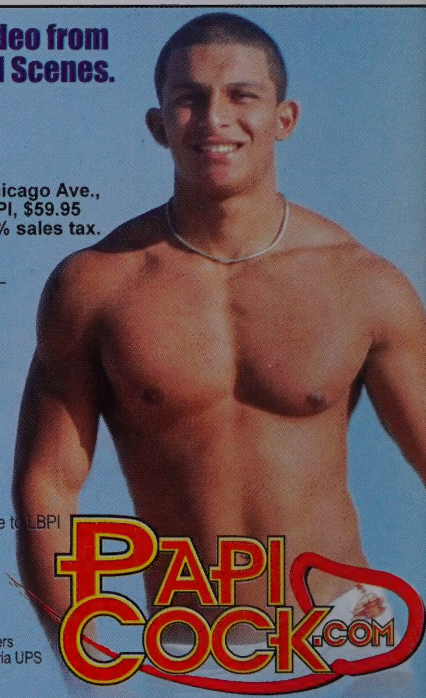

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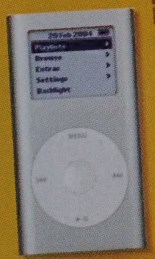

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Why do so many of my fellow gay men act femme-y and shave their bushes? Yes that is a turn off; it is not masculine, and I am not interested in sex with you.

My hat is off to the marketing geniuses at Abercrombie & Fitch who have convinced supposedly individualistic gay males to pay money to be walking advertisements for their brand name.

To the guy who says he's so cool and together, so why did you have to wade through all those "self-hating, nasty vipers" to get that cutie?

To everyone out there: No sores in 2004! Keep it in the pants please, or just get a checkup!

What kind of friend of Oprah is Dr. Phil when he never does any shows to help gay people and never says anything affirming about guests who say something gay-related?

I enjoy the company of all men. Those who choose to exclude even talking to skinny men or fat men or queens or the like are missing the variety of life. Relax and enjoy the scene and the company.

Thank God this metrosexual fad is over. Now I can go back to wearing a T-shirt with holes and smelling like Cheetos.

I am a mature, employed, overweight person with investments and life insurance who would never enter any of the "younger" bars. Still, I have health problems that keep me from being the body beautiful, at least to the standards of the younger crowd. What a loss that so great a population rejects me without any real basis.

Let me see if I got this right: You drove 100 miles to come to my bar so you could talk trash about it and tell me that it's a "world of difference" from the bars in your town? If your bars are so great, maybe you should have stayed your tired ass at home.

I live in Florida and I'm bitching that we screwed up the last presidential election and let the rightwing, gay-hate'n Republicans into the White House. Vote, guys! Get the Bush out of office.

A refresher on usage for the insouciant, insipid and flippant simpletons that adorn our local gay bars: "Drama" isn't synonymous with having feelings or expressing them. It means making a spectacle out of them. Which, given enough cocktails, you will do.

The men in your life who are too far away might just be worth the move. Maybe a little less egocentricity?

Don't you hate it when a gay bar changes the music in its jukebox only once a year?

It is so annoying when people (gay and straight) try to pigeonhole me with their idea of orientation and then get indignant when I don't follow. Screw the gay-straight-bi thing. If we connect and have a moment, we do. If we don't, we don't. Go find someone with whom you do click.

Why is it that you can have sex with a guy and his lover, but when you see them out they can't acknowledge you or at least say hello?

Some of us write into "Bitch Session" because we love to offend some of you pompous ass queens.

What gives President Bush the right to decide who is allowed to get married? You don't see us intruding on heterosexual marriages every time there is domestic violence issue or adultery.

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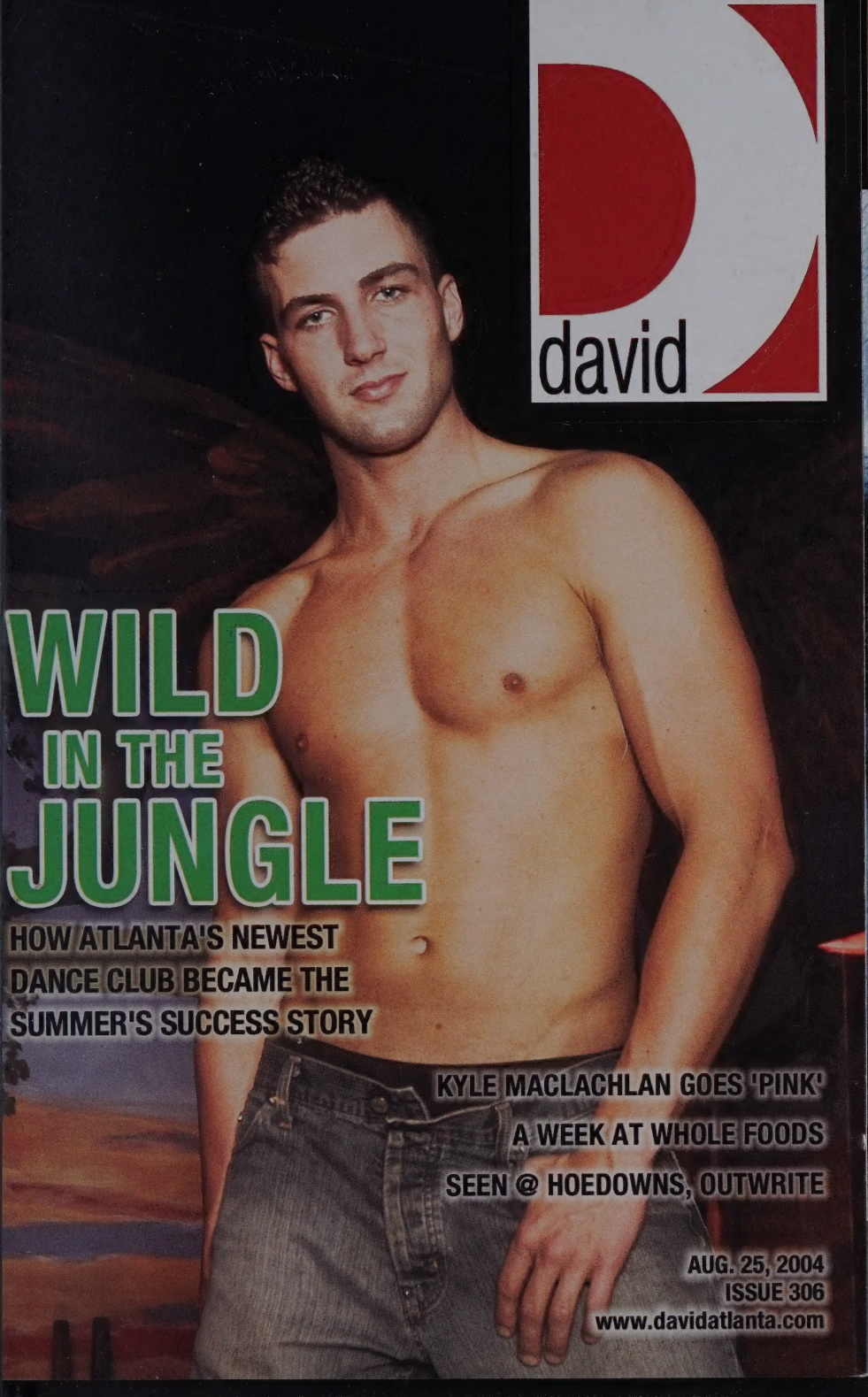
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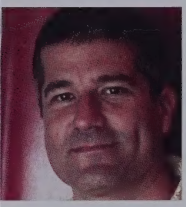

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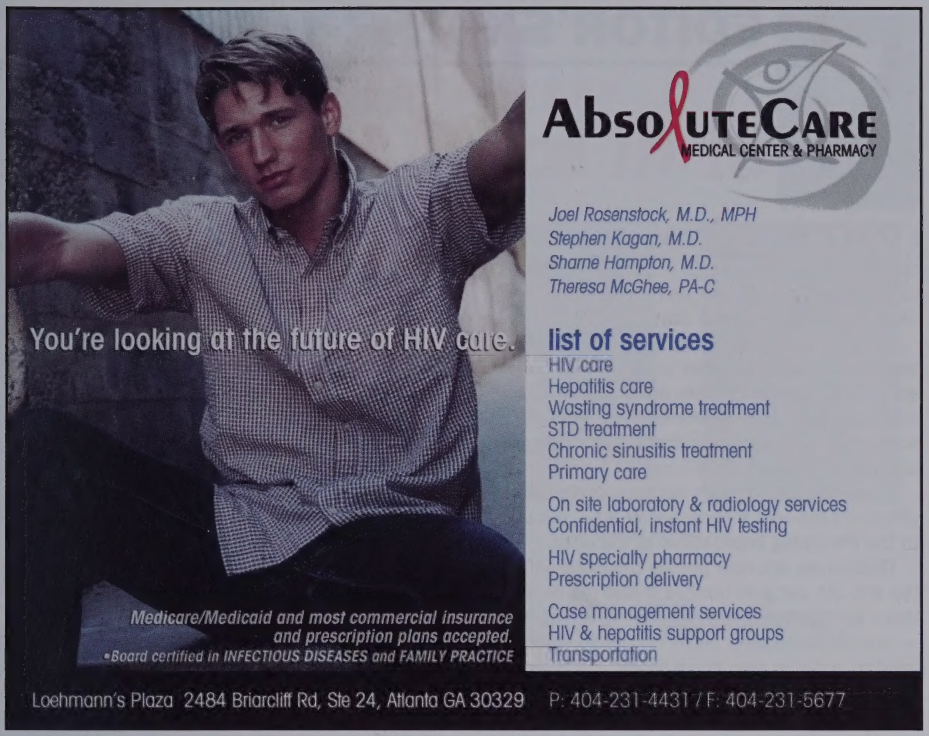
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EDITOR'S NOTE

I DON'T READ SPAM,
not normally, even though it's nigh impossible not to, given the glut of junk messages clogging my inbox every day.

But this one e-mail caught my eye recently and has bothered me ever since. It was actually written in English, not the normal nonsense text most spammers use, and boasted a, um, pointed subject line: "Firm erections for less than $3 each."

I read on, not so much because of the service offered (a low-rent Viagra, apparently), but due to the disturbing implications of the offer.

Companies are now pricing pleasure not by the pill, but *per erection*? Is it just me or is there something deeply frightening about that — not just because I shiver at the thought of hanging a dollar sign down below, but also because of the amount stated. Three bucks may not sound like much, but if you're getting any play at all the bill could add up fast. Just doing the math for a semi-active year should be enough to scare the pants off you. Or back on you, rather.

Most likely I'm hypersensitive right now, having just seen "The Corporation," which may well be the most petrifying film of the year. Essentially, the documentary sounds a wake-up call on how the rise of global corporations could spell the end of civilization as we know it. (Sounds awfully Chicken Little, I know, but the filmmakers present a clear and sober case that's awfully hard to refute. See it and you'll understand.)

Among the documentary's many alarming revelations comes the claim that a handful of monopolistic firms are out to own the rights to everything — every square inch of air space, every water source, and even the human genome's basic DNA information.

So I suppose the thought of buying and selling individual erections really shouldn't come as a shock. But it's an unsettling prospect. Once you assign a price to something so basic, going back will be hard, er, I mean, difficult. And what about price disparity? Can one seriously tell the difference between a $3 boner and the $2.50 bargain model? Or, on the other end:

"My trick last night had a $5 erection."

"Oh yeah, well, last week I bagged a $10."

I'll admit, there's a big leap of logic between pricing each panhandle and the shady ethics of big-business ownership. And thankfully, most guys are plenty capable of taking matters into their own hands (so to speak) and pitch their tents without pharmaceuticals.

Honestly, I should take matters into my own hands and install a better spam filter.

MOVING ON TO BRIGHTER TOPICS,
this week's cover guy Brad Williams has made a name for himself locally with his two popular nightspots, Red Chair and Jungle. Sean Selman talks to Brad about the rapidly changing nightlife scene and what's in the works for both venues.

Also this week we debut a new feature, Dyke & Fag Discuss ..., a gender-powered ping-pong match of conversational might. The column lets Kristin Johnson and Topher Payne square off on a pop-culture topic of their choice. The first victim: "Alien vs. Predator." (Scary, but it's not as scary as "The Corporation." Trust me.)

Finally, John Brown comes clean about his addiction to Whole Foods, with a diary of the various delights available for pick-up at the Ponce market. Delicious.

Be good, and keep reading.

TRAYB

Tray Butler
editor@davidatlanta.com

MISSING SOMETHING?

No, you didn't just imagine it. Due to a technical error, some pages in the Aug. 18 issue of *David* didn't print properly. Luckily, you can access the complete – and correct – issue online at **www.davidatlanta.com**.

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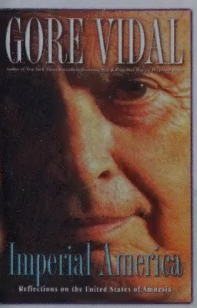

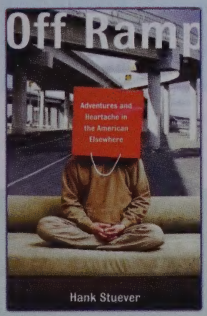

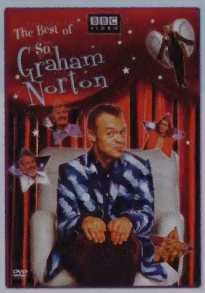

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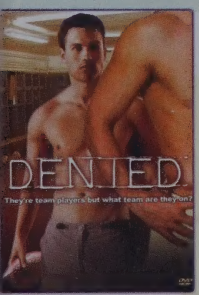

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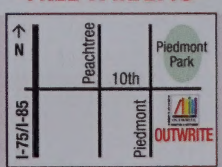

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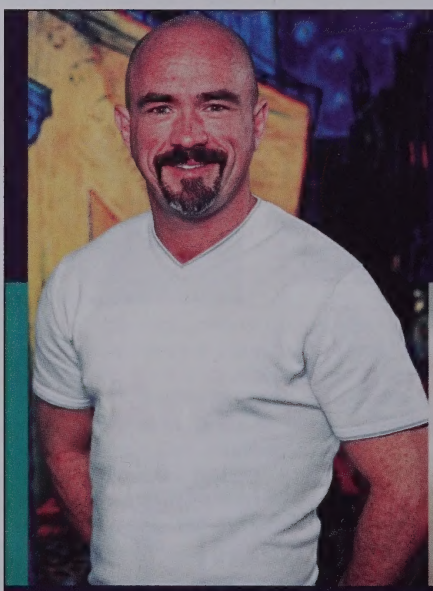

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COVER BY SEAN SELMAN

KING of the JUNGLE

How **Brad Williams,** owner of Red Chair and Jungle, found himself sitting pretty this summer

RUSS YOUNGBLOOD

WITH NIGHTLIFE HELD IN PLACE by venerable anchors like Blake's, Burkhart's and the Heretic, Atlanta patrons have watched a procession of other favorite venues crest on the horizon, then fade into the distance.

Now even bulwark institutions like Backstreet face the city's tide of change, as officials begin to enforce 3 a.m. bar closings across the board. Other venues sit squarely in the crosshairs of Atlanta's License Review Board, leaving the public waiting to find out what will happen next.

But Atlanta entrepreneur Brad Williams isn't waiting. In fact, he's getting ready for the next sea change, and he's determined that he'll remain afloat despite the city's current rough waters.

"You have these places that come and go, and then you have the ones that hang on, like the Heretic. Atlanta craves the new," Williams says. "It's not a bad thing. It's just the way it is. When you open something, you look for something that has staying power. The big thing is there's always someone who wants to come at it doing something differently, make something better than what went before. It's very competitive here."

Earlier this summer, Williams opened his latest venture, Jungle, at the previous location of the Chamber, a spacious warehouse venue off Chesire Bridge Road. Soon after, Backstreet closed indefinitely and Blü closed for renovations.

That left Williams — who also owns Red Chair Restaurant and Video Lounge off Amsterdam Avenue — sitting pretty with two popular venues. He's convinced he's found the right recipe for success by offering to fill a void in Atlanta's nightlife. But when Williams decided to open Jungle in the midst of massive scene change, many Atlantans wondered: Was he crazy, or just crazy like a fox?

He says he never saw it like that.

"First of all, I'm a businessman. I had a vision for a place that I'd like to go to, to go out and dance, and I didn't think that place existed in Atlanta before Jungle," he says. "I thought Atlanta could use another fun club that serves alcohol. I didn't open Jungle to take away from any other club in this city. I wanted to open a creative club that could add to the nightlife."

He's now preparing the space for its official grand opening on Sept. 24 with DJ Dave Myers. Plans call for adding more lighting to the club; in addition, his crews have already added more speakers and a projection screen that shows videos earlier in the evening.

Williams says his crowd numbers have

RUSS YOUNGBLOOD

increased only gradually through the summer, and that there's been no overwhelming influx of patrons due to recent bar closures.

"We've not seen a big growth in numbers. There's been some, but this has mainly been from our clientele," he says. "[The scene changes] have been a positive for us, but it's not what everyone thinks. We had already hit our capacity of 800 on nights before Blü and Backstreet closed."

For now, Jungle features weekend sets by resident DJ Derrick Shaw and newcomer Russ C, and Williams is straightforward in his belief that local DJs need and deserve a great venue to express themselves and impress the crowds. As for bringing in harder circuit DJs like Manny Lehman or Tony Moran — Blü's stock in trade — forget it. That's not in his plan.

"I want to give more local talent a chance to start out. I don't want to be limited by having to pay $3,000 to $5,000 a night for a DJ," he said. "My crowd just isn't looking for that kind of DJ to come out. That's why you only see those DJs every once in a while, and I don't think Atlanta wants to pay for that week after week."

Williams also is taking this new opportunity to tweak Red Chair, which has gradually found a solid niche in Atlanta nightlife. Chief among the changes is a shake up in the menu. Beginning this week, he'll bring in Red Chair's fifth chef, Andrew Lewis, who'll introduce a new tapas-only style for the restaurant.

Williams also is trying to market the space to new crowds, including nights for women and teens, and he's offering the venue for corporate meetings, videoconferences and other events. On Tuesdays he holds weekly dinner-and-movie nights beginning at 7:15 p.m., and he's trying out a drag king show beginning at 9:45 p.m. Wednesdays.

"The biggest reason [for the changes] is because Red Chair works best as a multi-faceted place," he says. "It's louder than most restaurants, and people are more social there. People come there to meet friends and socialize, maybe have something to eat but not have a full dining experience. Tapas will fit in better with that in mind."

What won't change is Red Chair's video experience, which has been a huge hit — just as Williams suspected it would be. It has its origins in one of his earlier ventures, a Ft. Lauderdale venue called Cathode Ray.

The monitors there eventually caught everyone's eye, he said, with comedy sketches mixed in among music videos and other montages. He noticed that normally rigid patrons would laugh, relax and start up conversations much more easily after watching just a few minutes.

"Once you go into that comedy [on the video monitors] and watching people drop their guard, well, it was magical," he says. His goal was to recreate that effect at Red Chair, only this time he tapped into video-projection technology, which allows for larger screens in a much larger space.

"I thoroughly enjoyed creating Red Chair," he says. "I love the fact that people who have never been there come in for the first time [and] they just love the space. We've seen that over and over again. That's one of the biggest compliments to me." ■

Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Road, Fri.-Sat. 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Free cover before 11 p.m., then $5 for members, $10 for non-members. Grand opening party is set for Sept. 24, widh DJ Dave Myers. Advanced tickets on sale at Red Chair and Jungle. 404-844-8800. www.jungleclub.net

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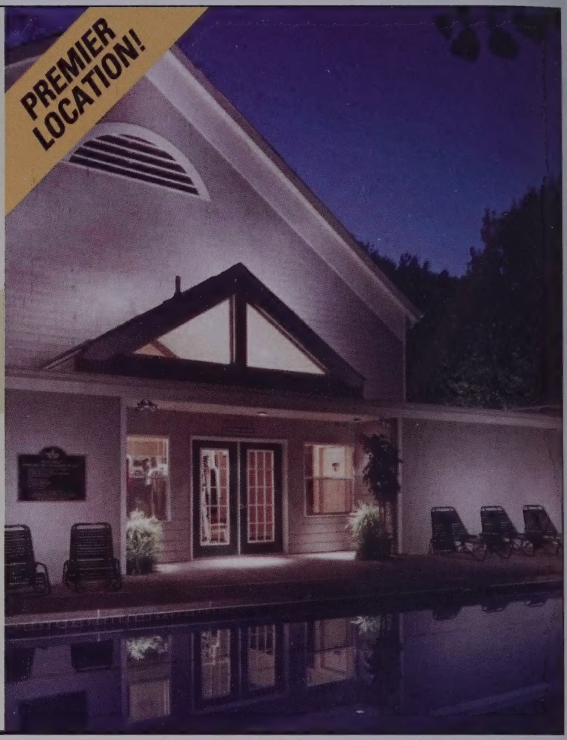

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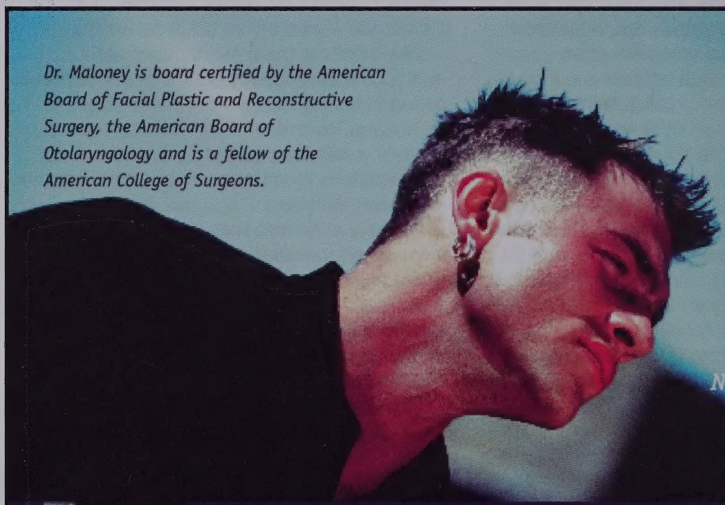

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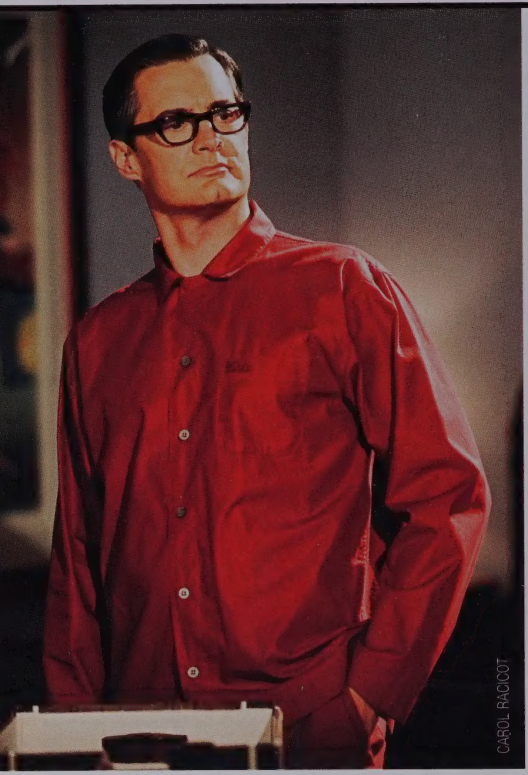

CAROL RACICOT

Kyle MacLachlan in "Touch of Pink"

CARY ON

'Touch of Pink' a fun but familiar homage to old Hollywood

THE COMING-OUT STORY HAS BEEN TOLD so many times, by now we must have seen characters from every race, religion and nationality clash with their homosexuality. At this point, we've even seen a gay Chihuahua come out ("Legally Blonde 2").

The same goes for the imaginary friend story line. Stupid comedies like "Drop Dead Fred" and highbrow dramas like "Cast Away" have all milked that cow. It's an imaginary cow of course. Named Bessie.

So what's a young filmmaker to do to come up with a fresh idea? Take these two tired genres, dump them into a blender, and stir. For extra kick, add a splash of Kyle MacLachlan doing a freakin' hysterical impersonation of Cary Grant. The result is "Touch of Pink," a frothy concoction that seems a tad too familiar, but tastes just fun enough to provide its own enjoyable flavor.

"Touch of Pink" is a British comedy about a Muslim man named Alim (played by phenom Jimi Mistry), who comes from Indian descent and upper-class bank accounts. Alim lives in London, thousands of miles from his family in Canada, for one very good reason — he has a boyfriend. When Mom (the glamorous Suleka Mathew) shows up to convince him to come home for his cousin's extravagant wedding, he has to straighten up his London flat. He and his boyfriend (unknown cutie Kristen Holden-Reid) pretend to be "roommates," and they remove the male erotica hanging from the walls.

Further complicating the plot, he's a classic film buff who imagines that the spirit of Cary Grant guides him through life's twists and turns. Old Hollywood's romantic ideals don't seem suited to modern day's ordeals, which provides the story's freshest and most exciting conflict.

It also helps that MacLachlan nails Grant's distinctive delivery. With pitch-perfect timing, he unleashes one zany quip after another, all with Grant's wry tone and polished style. Furthering the effect, MacLachlan's face is spackled in pancake makeup to portray Grant's trademark tan, and the costume director clearly plundered MGM's wardrobe department for Grant's old duds. In one of the movie's funniest scenes, Grant appears at a traditional Indian wedding dressed for safari.

Despite MacLachlan's fantastic

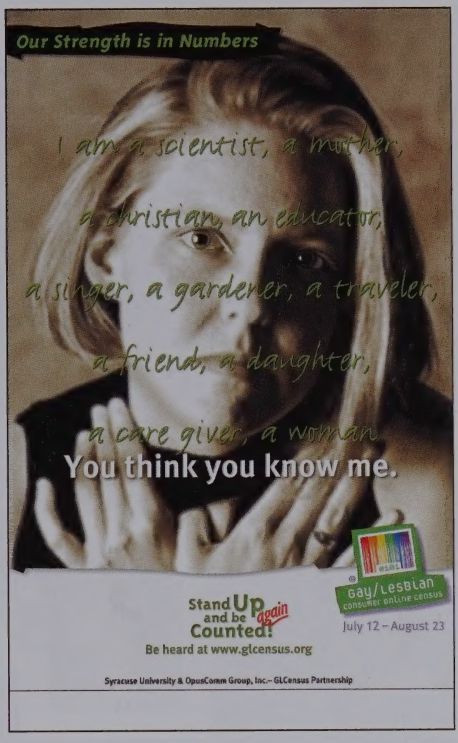
performance, I couldn't help but wonder why he wasn't playing the spirit of Rock Hudson. Given that Hudson was Hollywood's best known closet case, wouldn't that have made more sense?

"Touch of Pink" was written and directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid. Much like his main character, he seems fascinated with the romantic, campy classics of Hollywood's Golden Age, and his film serves as a charming homage.

Like the filmmakers behind "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and "Bend it Like Beckham," he's a promising newcomer with a gift for writing witty dialogue and developing strong characters. In the hands of a less talented creator, this story would come across as cheap and formulaic.

But even he can't escape the predictable conclusion. It's a good chance you've seen a few coming-out stories, so you already know how this movie ends. The same goes for its imaginary friend. Long before this movie reaches its 90-minute climax, there's no doubt what's going to happen to Cary Grant. He's wandering down some imaginary street with Wilson the volleyball and Bessie the Cow. ■

"Touch of Pink" opens Aug. 27 at Landmark Midtown Art Cinema.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Shontelle Thrash (left), Minka Wiltz and Carol Mitchell-Leon in "Slide Glide the Slippery Slope"

JOEL SILVERMAN/WWW.SILVERMANPHOTO.COM

SLIP SLIDING AWAY

Synchronicity and Jomandi unite for poignant, protracted, 'Slide Glide the Slippery Slope'

ERM AND ELO ARE IDENTICAL TWINS separated in their infancy by a mother who was too immature and unfeeling to parent one child, let alone two. The sisters grew up in very different worlds: Elo in the city with the abusive and often absent mother, Erm on the farm with a loving surrogate and sheltering sister.

Both envy what the other sister had and, now in their middle age, both harbor deep emotional scars from their own excruciating maternal experiences. Cloning, parental choice and genetic engineering take center stage in their personal journeys.

Erm (Shontelle Thrash) and Elo (Minka Wiltz) are the electrifying central characters in Kia Corthron's ("Breath," "Boom") scientifically motivated "Slide Glide the Slippery Slope," staged by Synchronicity Performance Group with the New Jomandi Theater.

Corthron has constructed a powerful and moving tale of family that regrettably is hindered by heavy-handed scientific overtones and by random uncharacteristic flourishes like talking sheep and teddy bears.

When Elo arrives at Erm's lonely farmstead on the eve of their shared 36th birthday amid a storm, the two women are ill prepared for a family reunion. Elo is all surface sweetness while Erm is tightly coiled and standoffish, preferring the companionship and conversations with her animals to human contact.

As Erm tells her overly emotional sister of their meeting: "We might be flesh and blood but we're not family." Still, slowly and over time, it becomes obvious to Erm that Elo is in no hurry to return to her life, as the ice and years between the long-separated siblings melt.

In the meantime, Erm's surrogate sister, Retta (Sandra Benton), falls prey to sickle cell anemia and the family must unite to offer care and comfort. While providing for each other, the sisters are plagued with dreams of their

own luckless maternal histories with nighttime visits from ghost children, Sear (Shon Middlebrooks) and Rosie (Sharisa Whatley).

By the second act, when Erm and Elo reunite with their mother, Dell (Carol Mitchell-Leon), the daughters' tension and terrible sense of loss and emptiness is palpable. Mother Dell, between cutting pieces of birthday cake for her estranged offspring, slashes her children with emotional blades.

When not offering her daughters barbecue potato chips and Cokes, Dell mercilessly attacks them for their failures: Elo's inability to successfully carry a child to term and Erm's reputed lesbianism.

There is a great hurt as each woman festers with loathing and bitterness.

Director Michele Pearce does an admirable job breathing life into Corthron's words through her taut direction of these very, very talented actors.

Unfortunately, the play bogs down in a mire of too much happening. With the addition of scientific discussions, meant to put a personal face on the often-impersonal world of medicine and discovery, the writer drowns her story in too much substance.

Corthron tries to fuse what could easily be two or more distinct plays into one production that becomes a tiresome tangle. Already overlong, the tale becomes downright tedious when the story turns to genetics, cloning dead daughters and playing God with people's lives.

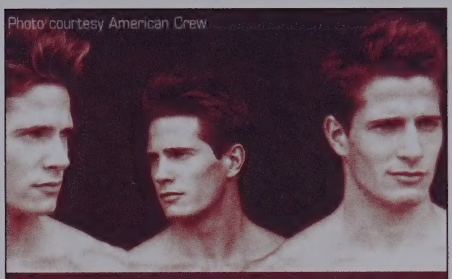
Both Thrash as Erm and Wiltz as Elo are served up some very juicy dramatic morsels and both feast on the opportunity to embody their roles and deliver exceptional performances. These women add dimension and life to characters that could come off as paper-thin, emotional rag dolls.

Mitchell-Leon's Dell is a harrowing harridan who is the incarnation of heartlessness. Once driven by booze and sex, she now finds a wellspring of acid in her carefully selected Bible passages.

Middlebrooks and Whatley are fine as ghost children and as human symbols of what could have been and Benton's sisterly Retta is often the lone voice of reason and hope in a sea of anger and acrimony.

Seeing such a robust cast, one wonders why Corthron felt compelled to weigh down a marvelously touching tale with cold and weighty scientific debate. ■

Slide Glide the Slippery Slope runs at 7 Stages Back Theater through Sept. 12. 1105 Euclid Ave. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 7 p.m. $15-$20. 404-325-5168. www.synchrotheatre.com.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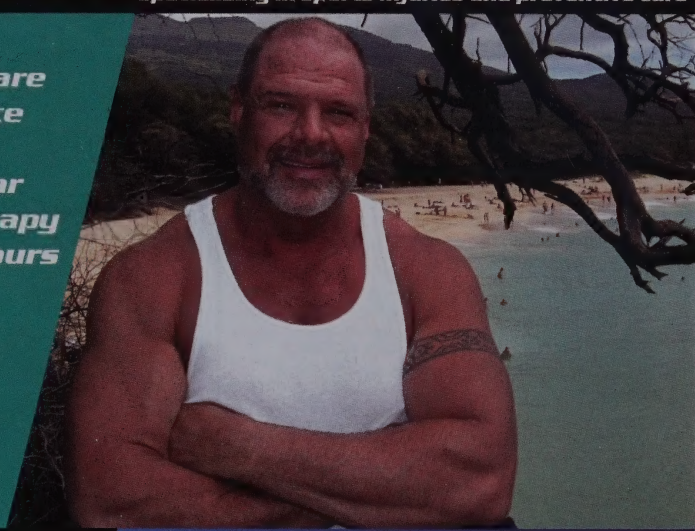

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A GIRL'S GOTTA EAT BY JOHN BROWN

SCOTT W. MOORE

WHOLE in my HEART

Recording a week spent at **Whole Foods Market**

HI. MY NAME IS JOHN. AND I HAVE A PROBLEM.

I'm an addict and the smack that gets me off is ... a grocery store.

Yes, I am a Whole Foodsaholic.

It began innocently enough, as most addictions do — a fresh tuna steak here, a round of non-pasteurized brie there, maybe a fancy imported olive mix for kicks. But just this once, right?

My last minute, run-in-before-the-party-cause-it's-closer-than-Kroger trip has developed into a full-on, four-times-a-week shopping and dining habit. My problem is blatant, crunchy, granola consumerism at its worst. I am so terribly ashamed.

To better understand my "problem," I decided to keep a diary to track when and why I went. I'd go back later, read it, feel guilt, remorse. Perhaps enough to go cold turkey.

Organic? Free range? Did someone say turkey?

MONDAY: Ah, Monday. Like the clouds parting in my post-weekend head, so too the clouds over Midtown's worst parking lot. All I need is a bottle of wine and a bite. Twenty-eight dollars later, I emerge with a nice bottle of red and a pre-made sashimi tray, complete with fake grass and a plastic packet of soy. Did someone say environmentally sound packaging? I thought not.

TUESDAY: Sober and collected, I take a list, thinking that I can kick the habit through organizational skills. I ignore the organic chanterelle mushrooms, caps reminding me of certain body parts, and head straight for the fish counter. Fifteen dollars a pound is not too much to pay for fresh tuna steaks. Really. And they put it on ice — so worth it. Organic trans fatty acid-free, whole-wheat crackers? Check. Garlic and lemon hummus? Check. *Vanity Fair* with David Beckham on the cover? Check.

WEDNESDAY: Stayed home. Ate crackers and hummus. Started new list.

THURSDAY: Erik calls looking for a lunch partner. Ten minutes later, I'm breaking Whole Foods house rules, entering through the sliding exit doors. As I sit and wait, I notice the crowd in the seating area: secretaries in running shoes, Erykah Badu look-alikes breastfeeding, a young Goth couple, frighteningly sans black makeup, and a super-fine, shaved-headed construction worker, vainly trying not to get braised tofu salad in his soul patch. Yum indeed!

FRIDAY: I make it through the week! I deserve something special. And so I go. Feeling introspective, I ponder some basic mysteries of this place they call Whole Foods: How do they get all these vegetables to stack without falling? What really is on the first couple of aisles? Doesn't the peanut butter machine's output look strangely scatological? And won't that bitch hurry up and quit sampling the pizza so I can get my slice?

SATURDAY: I schedule my trip for early evening. Not that the LSD-esque explosion of floral and vegetable color at the front door isn't enough to give me flashbacks, my needs are less chemical and more prurient. I linger in Seafood, checking out the latest "catch." I make obscene gestures when asking about various homemade sausages. I cruise the gigantic salad bar, eyeing the olive oil like Daryl Hannah in "Summer Lovers." In case you're blind, what's really fresh and ripe and served up for your eating pleasure at Whole Foods are your fellow shoppers. From ex-tricks to bisexual hotties to women so beautiful you think twice, the right side of the store is nothing short of a hormone-fed runway featuring the Recommended Daily Allowance. And I ain't talking nutrition.

SUNDAY: Up early, I leave the house in search of food. A little-known secret sits atop of Ponce Springs: the Breakfast Bar. Grits, sausages, bacon, scrambled eggs, pastries — you name it, they got it. Noting that I teeter on the edge of financial ruin (they don't call it Whole Paycheck for nothing), I realize that I am but a victim. It's not me with the problem. No, not my fault! I am a victim: a victim of American Marketing Genius.

So much for addiction. Bon appetit! ■

Whole Foods Market, 650 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-853-1681, www.wholefoods.com

BAG IT

It's survival of the fittest on Midtown's grocery scene

KROGER: aka, Krogay. The Dirty Old Dowager of intown groceries. At least the beer's still cheap. *1700 Monroe Drive.*

MARKET ONE: 3, 2, 1 ... what's that ticking? Time running out for Whole Foods' latest victim, perhaps? *1061 Ponce De Leon Ave.*

SAVE RITE: Bad things come to those who can't spell. Or re-stock the shelves. *931 Monroe Dr.*

PUBLIX: No grocery store should have carpet. Ever. *Various locations.*

RICHARD'S: Seemingly structurally unsound, it's got everything from porn to vine ripe tomatoes. What more do you want? *785 Argonne Ave.*

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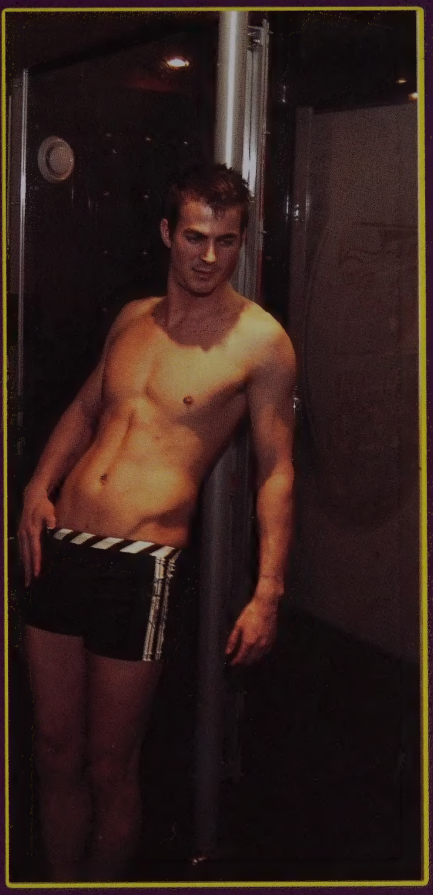

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DYKE & FAG DISCUSS ...

This week, **Kristin and Topher** discover the gay angle in the poster for

ALIEN vs. PREDATOR

Topher: OK, I've never seen "Alien" or "Predator." I am not the target audience for this.

Kristin: I saw the "Alien" with Winona Ryder in it. "Resurrection."

T: The one where they clone Sigourney Weaver?

K: I have no recollection of that.

T: And there was another one where she shaved her head.

K: The first one.

T: No, the first one was the one where she was in her panties. You should see it. Hot.

K: She didn't shave in that one?

T: Not her head.

K: Hot.

T: The poster doesn't show people, but there are humans in the movie.

K: Oh, there are?

T: Of course there's humans in the movie. Alien and Predator don't talk.

K: That would suck.

T: It'd be experimental, though. A silent action movie. I'd admire that.

K: ... I have no response to that.

T: The movie's in Antarctica, I think. But I guarantee, by the end of the movie, some guy is gonna be shirtless.

K: In the Arctic?

T: I'll put 10 bucks on the table right now. End of movie, at least one shirtless man, one girl in tank top. In the Arctic.

K: You're on.

T: Here's a question. "Freddy vs. Jason": One Freddy, one Jason. But this movie has like 5,000 Aliens and Predators. So shouldn't the title really be "Aliens vs. Predators"?

K: That sounds more like a football game.

T: So the Alien in the "Alien" movies ... female, right?

K: I think so.

T: Right, "Get away from her, you bitch." Bitch is female.

K: We're assuming. And "Predator" I think is a male.

T: So it's like a gender war.

K: I think it goes beyond that. I think that the

kind of fear that makes people want to see movies like this is the same fear that the straight community feels toward the gay community.

T: Whoa. Deep.

K: This is good shit, Topher, stay with me. In the original "Alien," they're in outer space, in this spaceship that protects them from the non-elements. So these people, they're sort of sealed off, protected, they don't have to encounter anything they don't want to, then the scary Aliens come in and fuck up their sense of security, right?

T: Right.

K: "Predator," macho guys in the jungle, then here comes the big scary thing to hunt them down, and suddenly they're being hunted. Which relates to the white, heterosexual privilege in this country, fear of some foreign invader coming in and being more in power and in control than they are. And that will, in the general sense, destroy their way of life.

T: And bleed acid on them.

K: In a general sense. But since the Alien is female, and Predator is male, it's almost ...

T: Like an allegory for lesbians and gay men. This makes sense. Because I know a lot of gay men I would describe as predators.

K: Exactly!

T: "Come here little twink ..."

K: And that's the big fear of the homophobe, that gay men are after them, and want to conquer them. Which is predatory.

T: But lesbians aren't seen as being a threat, they're not gonna get ya, they're just different and weird.

K: Alien!

T: Exactly!

K: & T: Aah!

K: Also, you notice the tag line: "Whoever wins, we lose." "We" being the dominant culture.

T: But in our scenario, it's a fight between gay men and lesbians.

K: I know, that's where the theory unravels, because I don't think gay men and lesbians are seen as separate entities by the straight community.

T: Are you crazy? Sure they do. In fact, the real fear would be that the Aliens and Predators would team up, and then go after the humans.

K: So we're really rooting for them to become friends.

T: Hell yeah. Because together they're unstoppable.

K: Like us.

T: Hell yeah. ■

— Kristin Johnson
Topher Payne

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DATEBOOK BY BRIAN SUBER

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS

It's been too long since Birmingham's most famous DJ made an appearance in the ATL, a wait that's about to end with this weekend's return of Lydia Prim. The longtime Atlanta favorite comes to town to kick of **Bliss**, a series of monthly dance parties presented by the newly formed Xtreme Entertainment Group. The first event will be held at the Abbey, and party organizers say the venue has been refurbished with a new air conditioning system (good news for anyone who attended the last hot-as-Hades party there) and will also debut Xtreme's new, state-of-the art sound system. *Bliss, Aug. 28, 10:30 p.m. $20. The Abbey, 163 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-419-6026.*

NATIVE TONGUE

Midtown's popular spot for hipsters and hotties, Halo, continues to build queer cred with its Thursday night offerings. **Tongue & Cheek Thursdays** feature dinner and a drag extravaganza with Heather Daniels and Alexandria Martin and music from DJ Dr. Katz. The weekly happening kicks off early and goes until owners bar the doors. *Halo, 817 West Peachtree St. 8:30 p.m. 404-962-7333. www.halolounge.org.*

FREE ZONE

Liberate your inner child and enjoy an inspiring theatrical look at gender roles, identity and friendship. Synchronicity Theater is currently running **"Free to Be, You and Me"** as part of its Family Series. The timeless classic flowed from the pens of children and young adult auteurs Marlo Thomas, Shel Silverstein and Judy Blume. The production is for kids of all ages and features songs, stories, poetry readings and puppet shows. Adapted for the stage by Douglas Love and Regina Safran. *7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. Sat. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Sun. 12 p.m., 2 p.m. 404-523-7647. www.synchrotheater.com.*

ELEVATION CELEBRATION

Culture junkies can get their fix on Aug. 28 with PushPush Theater's **"A Night of Elevation,"** featuring live musicians and spoken word poetry. With performances by JT Hair Reese and 7 SeVeN, the event is hosted by EleVaTion. "Pure Soul" after party with 89.3 FM's DJ Pure Ice. A night chock full of music, poetry, visual arts and more. *PushPush Theater, 121 New St., Decatur. 8 p.m. $10. 404-307-6332. www.pushpushtheater.com.*

HOTDATES

08.25 **WINE ON WEDNESDAY:** Sample a variety of German vintages from the Wegeler Estates, purported to have therapeutic powers. When we drink sufficient wine, we always feel better. *City Grill, 50 Hurt Plaza. 6:30 p.m. $19. 404-524-2489. www.citygrillatlanta.com*

08.25 **EGOMANIA:** New works from Alter Ego artist Paul Wolski (who also happens to be *David's* art director). *Impulse at Compound, 1008 Brady Ave. 9 p.m. 404-872-4621. www.impulseatl.com*

08.28 **CABARET FAREWELL:** Charlie Brown's Cabaret, a local favorite for 14 years, calls it quits this weekend, citing poor support from its new home, the Armory. We'd wager that the unsinkable Mr. Brown will soon resurface elsewhere. *11 p.m., the Armory, 836 Juniper St., 404-881-9280.*

08.29 **JOHN MAYER:** Pop music songbird performs for a hometown crowd. His body is a wonderland — and he sings, too! *HiFi Buys Amphitheatre. 7 p.m. $35.50. 404-627-9704. www.hifibuysamp.com*

08.31 **MARY KAY ANDREWS:** The beloved author (aka Kathy Hogan Trocheck) returns to her former home to chat about her new novel, "Hissy Fit." *Margaret Mitchell House, 990 Peachtree St. 6 p.m. $8. 404-249-7012. www.gwtw.org*

NIGHTLIFECALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

WED 08.25

ARMORY. Flux. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Brain Freeze trivia extravaganza with Ruby Redd, 11pm., $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke jackpot, 10 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m.
Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
CHAPARRAL. Flamin' Hot Wednesdays with hot bods, go-go boys, contests.
CLUB 708. Open mic night, 10 p.m.
Mini-Ball drag show, 2 a.m.
CLUB JAGUARS. "Banjee Boi" dance party with DJ "M." 10 p.m.-3 a.m.
CLUB M-MAGE. Ladies Night, 9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar.
COMPOUND. Impulse presents Egomania, 9 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
HERETIC. Dress Code Party, DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate Two-step dance lessons.
LE BUZZ. "Camp LeBuzz" with Arianna D'Black, 10 p.m.; Men of Menerge dancers, 11 p.m.
MASQUERADE. Vain Wednesdays.
METRO. Class, Ass & Pizzazz with host Maxine Blue and Feleshia Sapphire, Yanae Van Michaels, Ava Chanel Alexander, Jewel Holiday, Tanisha Cassadine, Charles Kelly, Dominique and Milan, 11:30 p.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Open mic night.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MODEL T. Movie night, 12 a.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Karaoke, 9 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Smirnoff martini special.
RED CHAIR. Ladies Night.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 11 p.m.
WETBAR. Femmetini Wednesdays for women.

THU 08.26

BLAKE'S. Blake's Mail v2.0, $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke Idol jackpot.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix with Mary Edith Pitts, Martina Diamante, Savannah Leigh and Niesha Dupree.
CLUB 708. Trade Thursdays plus Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Bad Boy Thursday, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear party, 10 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
HALO. DJ Brandon Sutton.
HERETIC. Rapture, DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, Ladies Night
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. '80s trivia
LE BUZZ. Check out this Cobb favorite.
MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.
METRO. Alexis Troncoso with Alexa Markov and guests, 12 a.m. DJ Carlos spins at 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Talent search, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Alternating open-mic and singer-songwriter night.
THE NEW ORDER. Open mic night.
OSCARS. Best of the Oscars videos w/VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. Karaoke contest, with grand prize trip for two to Halloween in New Orleans. 10 p.m.

METRO

FRI.08.27
CLUB 1821
18 TO PARTY, 21 TO DRINK
CUTIE PIE CONTEST

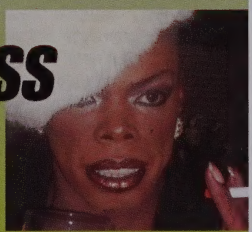
>Best Body Parts
>WIN Cash and Prizes with Amber Divine
DJ Jason

MON.08.30

Shawnna Brooks'
MAD MONDAY REVUE
WITH ASHLEY KRUIZ, DJ RANDY

NO COVER WITH INDUSTRY CARD — SIGN UP FOR YOURS!

WED.09.01
Maxine Blue's
CLASS, ASS & PIZAZZ SHOW WITH



Feleshia Sapphire, Jewel Holiday, Ava Chanel Alexandria, Dominique, Charles Kelly, Tanisha Cassadine, Alicia Kelly and DJ Jones

METRO
1080 PEACHTREE / 404.874.9869
HAPPY HOUR MON-SAT, 3-10 PM
with Kelly "Mary" O'Brien & Louie Spetrini

TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. Service Industry Night, free buffet 7-9 p.m.
VALS. June Dunaphant plays piano with open mic singers, 7:30 p.m.

FRI 08.27

ARMORY. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 11 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba, 7 p.m., $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Out In Country: country music night with free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
BUDDIES. Dumpster Divas.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m.
Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. International gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m. Blackout Fridays.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. Sweat, DJ Rick Walsh, 9 p.m.
JUNGLE: No cover before 11 p.m.
LE BUZZ. "Dance, Dance, Dance" w/DJ Flea.
MARY'S. Danceteria. 9 p.m.
METRO. "Cutie Pie Contest" with Amber Divine, 12 a.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Live music, special events.
THE OSCARS. Martinis, Men & Videos with VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. DJ Derrick Shaw.
No cover before 11 p.m.
TRIPPS. Disco night, 9 p.m.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. Dance hits on the best patio in Atlanta
WOOFS. Catch all the hot sports action

SAT 08.28

BLAKES. "Let's Make a Diva Deal."
THE BREAKING POINT. Cabaret and drag fights.
BUDDIES. Gladiators of Glamour, 10 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with Men of Jaguar.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
HERETIC. Romp, DJ John Millier, 9 p.m.
JUNGLE: No cover before 11 p.m.
LE BUZZ. LeGirlzz of LeBuzz drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
METRO. "Caliente!" Latin dance party with DJ Martin, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Model Teez Girlz drag show, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Dance party.
THE OSCARS. Martinis, Men & Videos with VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. VJ Patrick Finger. Never a cover.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRAXX. Legendary Traxx Night hip-hop, 10 p.m.
Male revue show, third floor, 12 a.m.
TRIPPS. Blackout party.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. Ultimate Boys Night. Enter to win a trip to the Bahamas.

SUN 08.29

ARMORY. Charlie Brown's Cabaret, 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. Atlanta's No. 1 drag revue, Big Time!

BUDDIES. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip-hop gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Social night, open until midnight.
EAGLE. Open until midnight.
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh, 8 p.m.-midnight
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Free buffet, 5-6 p.m.
MODEL T. Café Zone 3 jazz show, 10 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Sunday T Patio and Dine Outdoors Party, 4:30 p.m.

MON 08.30

BLAKE'S. Neighborhood Party with free buffet from 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Drag Races 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool.
BUDDIES. Free pool until 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys exotic dancers.
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. DJ Brett Long, 9 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Free pool and $3 margaritas.
METRO. "Shawna Brooks' Mad Monday Revue" starring Ashley Kruiz and guests, 12 a.m. DJ Randy spins at 10 p.m.
MIDTOWN SALOON & GRILL. Free pool.
NICKIEMOTO'S. Dragamaki w/Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and guests.
THE OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
TRAXX. Stars of the Century female illusion show, doors open 10:30 p.m.

TUE 08.31

BLAKE'S. Island Night, $3 well drinks
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool & game night.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Oldies & Goodies night '70s and '80s hip-hop and R&B, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night.
DRAGONFLY. 18-and-up gay night. Open bar, 10-11 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke w/Alexandria Martin.
MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
METRO. "Caras Nuevas" newcomer revue with Mama Mia Alegria, 12 a.m. Latin House Dance Party at 10 p.m.
MISS Q's. Pool league
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Showtune Tuesday.
RED CHAIR. Dinner and a Movie, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRAXX. Thugged Out Night hip-hop, doors open 11
VAL'S. Ladies Night.
WETBAR. Support Your Community Night. 10% of proceeds go to charity.

METRO

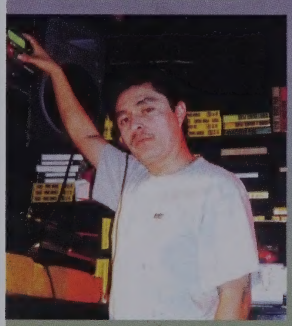
ATLANTA'S BEST LATIN DJs!

SAT.08.28

¡CALIENTE!

DJ Martin

TUE.08.31



DJ Martin's LATIN HOUSE DANCE PARTY

Caras Nuevas Newcomer Revue with Mama Mia Alegría @ Midnight

THU.09.02

DJ Carlos

LATIN CONNECTION

SHOWMASTER ALEXIS TRONCOSO AND GUESTS AT MIDNIGHT

METRO

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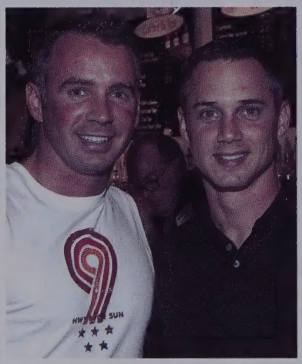
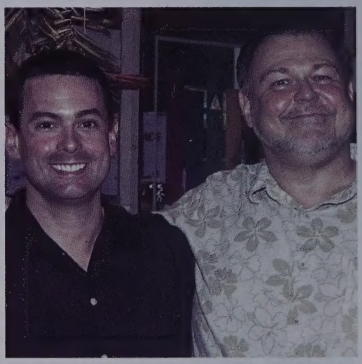
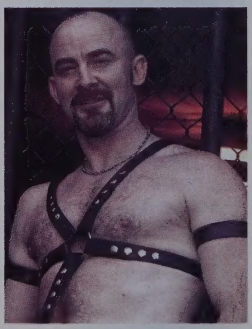
HAPPY HOUR MON-SAT, 3-10 PM

with Kelly "Mary" O'Brien & Louie Spetrini

SEEN@OUTWRITE AIDS WALK KICK OFF

SEEN@THE MARK



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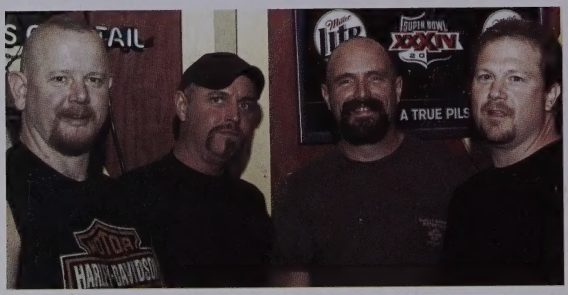

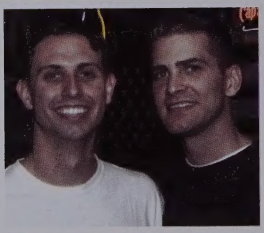

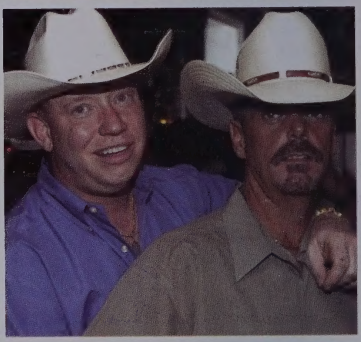

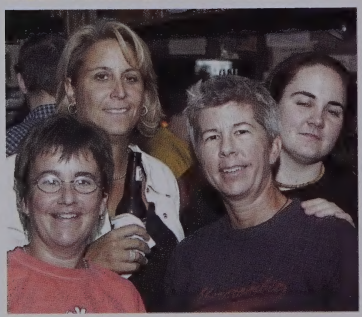

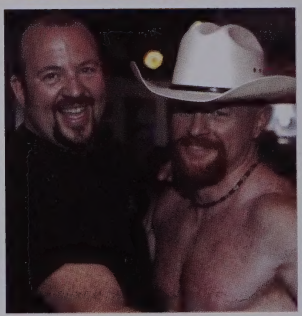

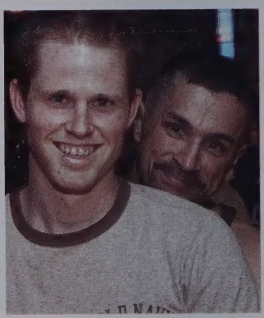

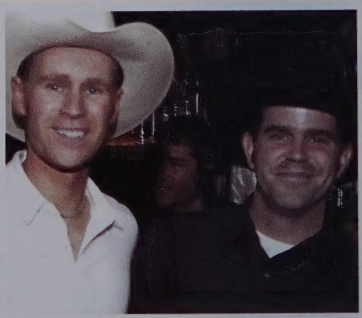

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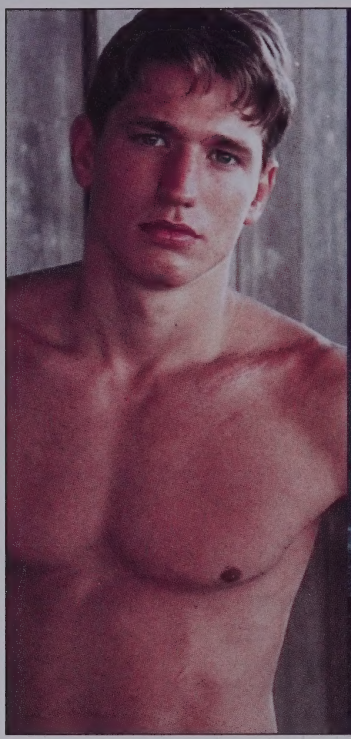

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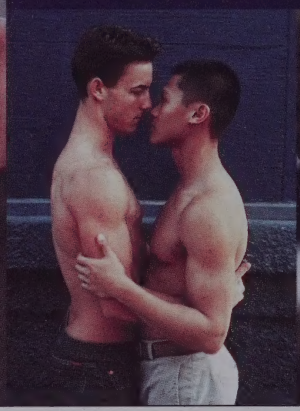
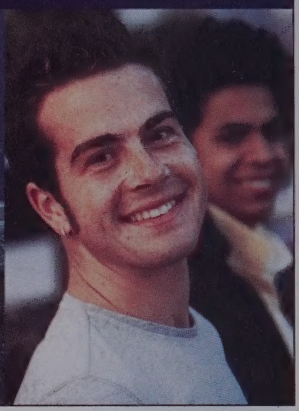
New site! stevenunderhill.com





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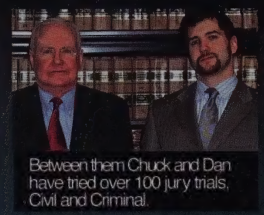

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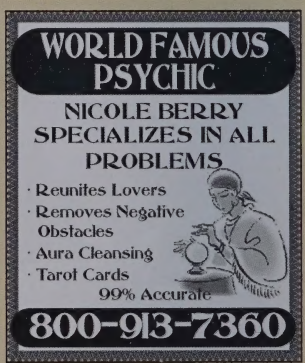

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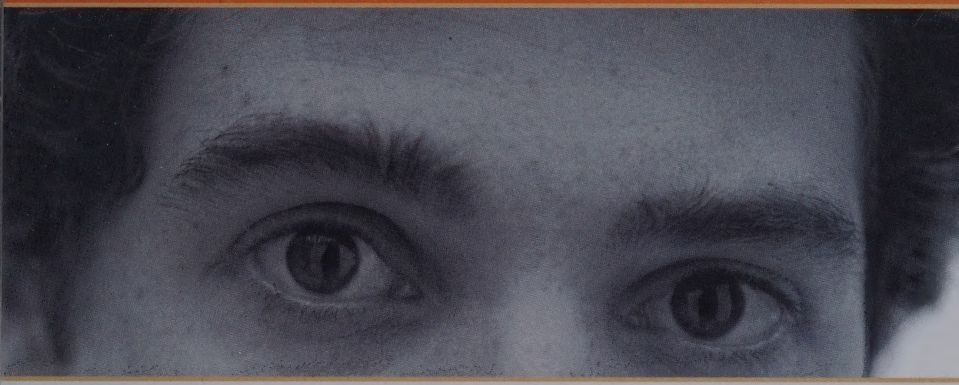
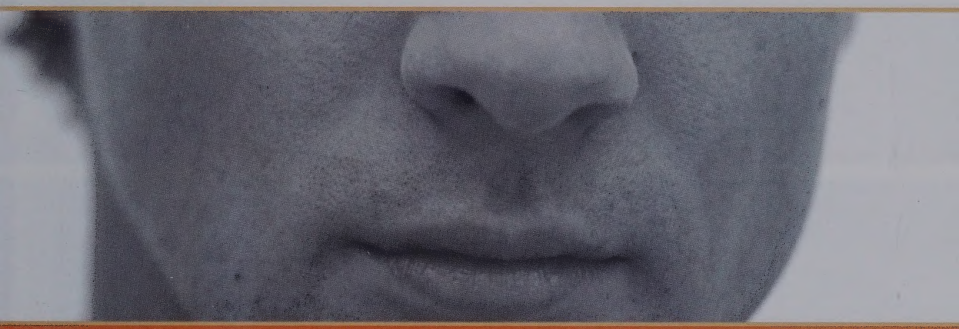


I know someone who disagrees.



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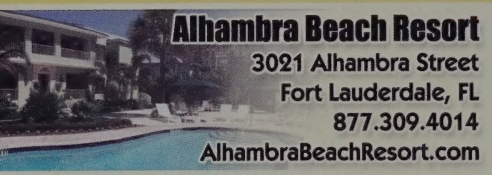

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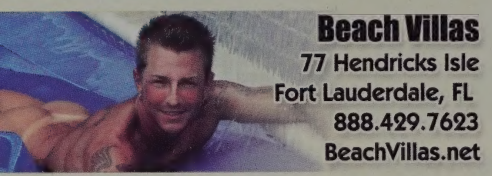

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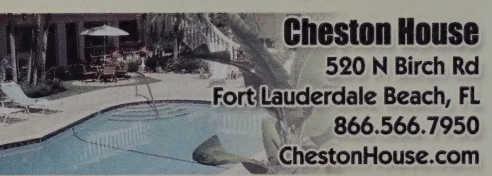

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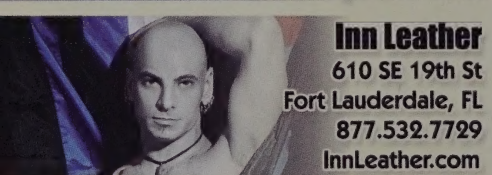

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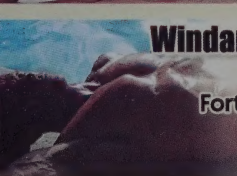

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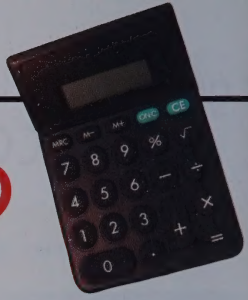
NEED WOOD? BY WOODY MILLER



US + HIM = ?

My partner wants **a threeway,** but the addition scares me

HEY WOODY!

My partner of four years has started suggesting threesomes. I'm acting shocked because we're monogamous but I must admit I've had fantasies (including foursomes and fivesomes). We talked about the rules. He says no kissing, he only tops, and I can be a total slut while he enjoys watching. He wants me to find the right mantoy, and suggested someone married or for hire, so there's no risk of attachments, and only once every three months.

But I'm scared of being left out while they vent out their animal lust — on my bed! My boyfriend is 16 years younger so that could wreck me emotionally.

Is our relationship doomed, or is the fun just starting? Where and how do I find men for threesomes anyway? Help! I'm very confused yet getting very horny.

— Panting & Pouting

DEAR PANTING:

Before I dispense with the advice, do a math problem. Without using a calculator. So, you're driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get in. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmathen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. Now what was the name of the bus driver?

Answer: Think hard.

Answer: You, you idiot.

My point, and I do have one, is that in the race to get people on and off your bed you forgot the most important person: You, you idiot. Your letter was filled with your boyfriend's wish list but not a peep about yours.

The only way threesomes work is if both partners have an equal say about the rules. I don't hear "equal" in your letter. I hear steamroller. Which explains why you're laying flat on the pavement.

So you need to go back to your bossy boyfriend with a list of your requirements, compare them to his and see if you can work things out. And while you're at it, ask him why he made you the bus driver when it was his idea to wheel around town looking for another pair of testicles to swing over his bed. There's a huge power imbalance going on in your relationship and you need to straighten that out before you start playing with fire.

Assuming you can morph from door mat to power tramp, getting a third guy is going to take some work, depending on how picky you are (and I might add, how picky your prey is). Unless the radiance of your beauty makes sunglasses a must at the bar, you're going to have to do some heavy prowling — online and off.

Plus, there's a bunch of questions you have to answer: Do you guys have the same taste? What if he likes the quarry and you don't? What if Game-Boy likes your boyfriend and not you? Who gets veto power and when?

I like the idea of starting out by ordering in. It's the safest way to explore how to open up your relationship. Better to cough up some cash now than to spit up your relationship later.

HEY, WOODY!

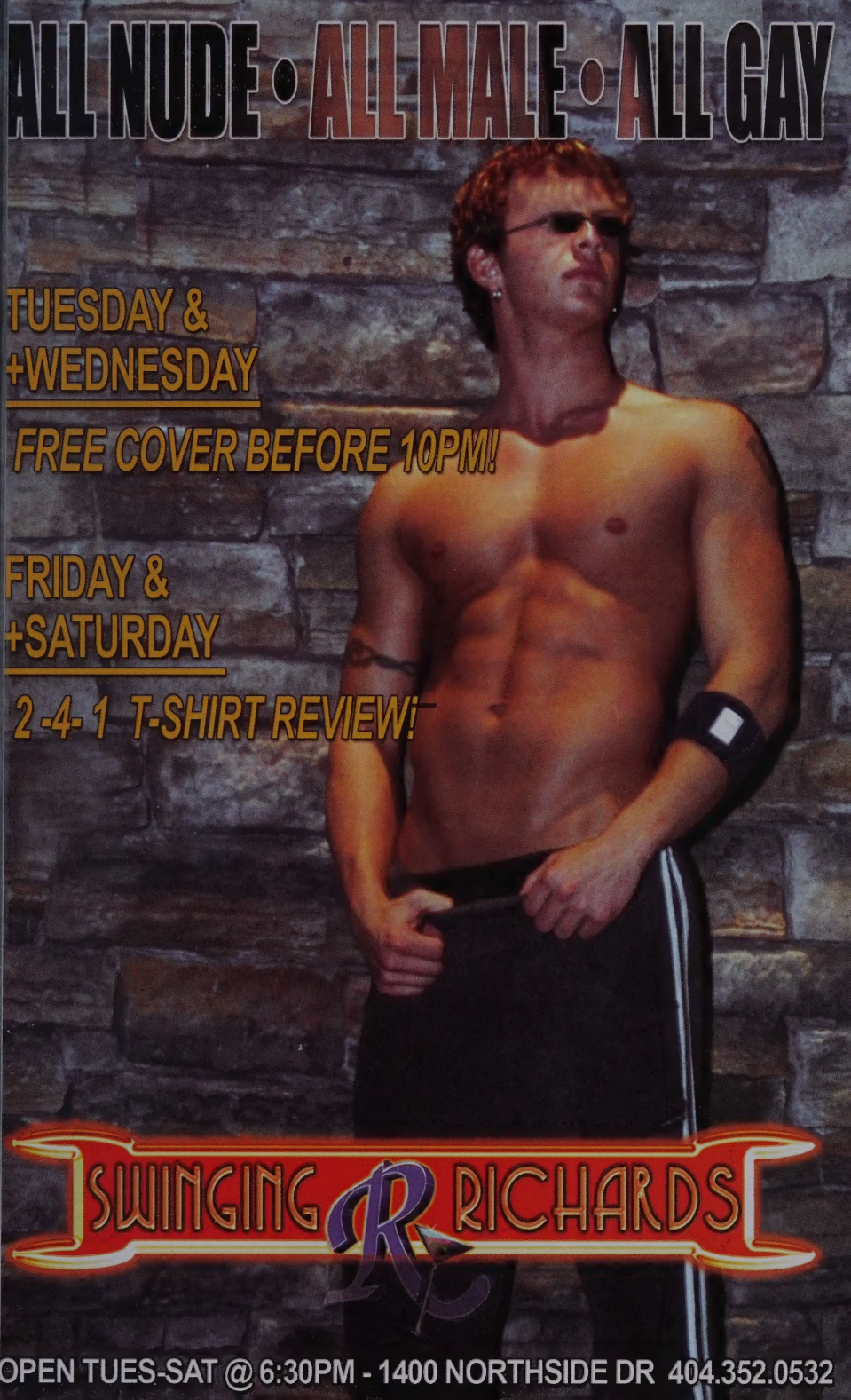
I love your column, man. Like I tell my tricks, keep it up! I have a complaint, though. You had such good info on bondage sheets a couple of columns ago and then left us hanging on where to get one.

— Baby wants a beating

DEAR BABY:

Ever heard of Google? No? Then start with www.sportsheets.com. They're one of the leading manufacturers of fantasy bondage gear. They pioneered Velcro-based sheets, which allow you to do what John Kerry does best — try an endless variety of positions. ■

Woody is the author of "Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon." He can be reached at needwood@comcast.net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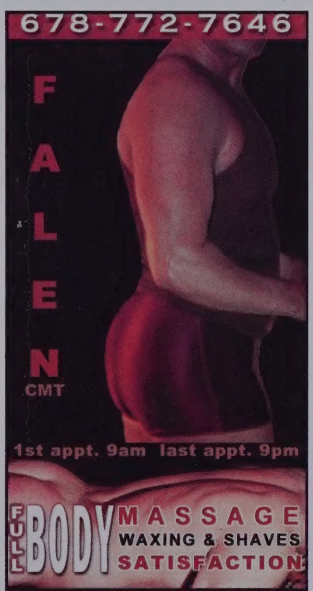

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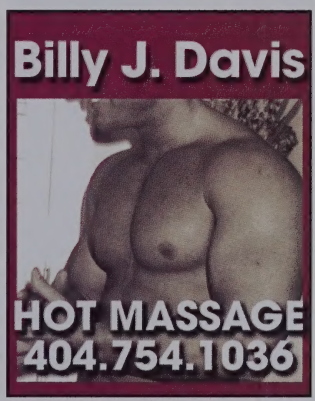

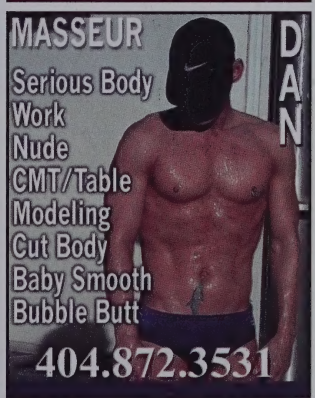

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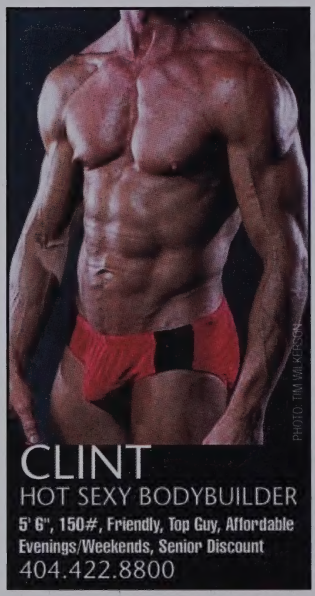

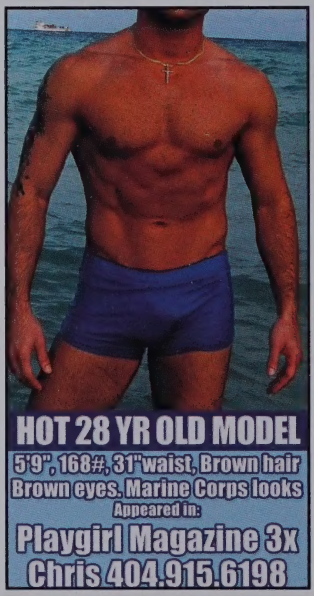

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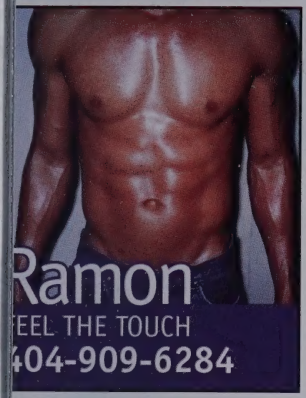

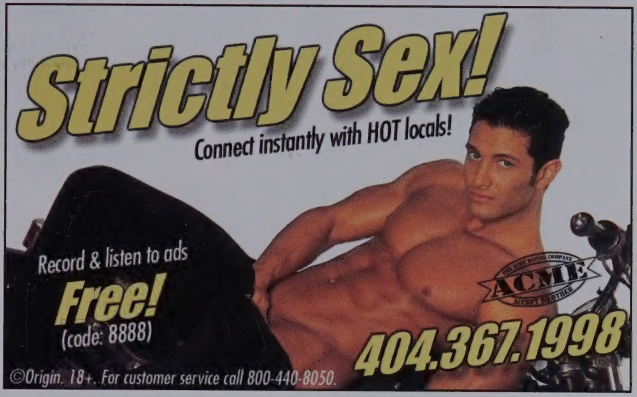

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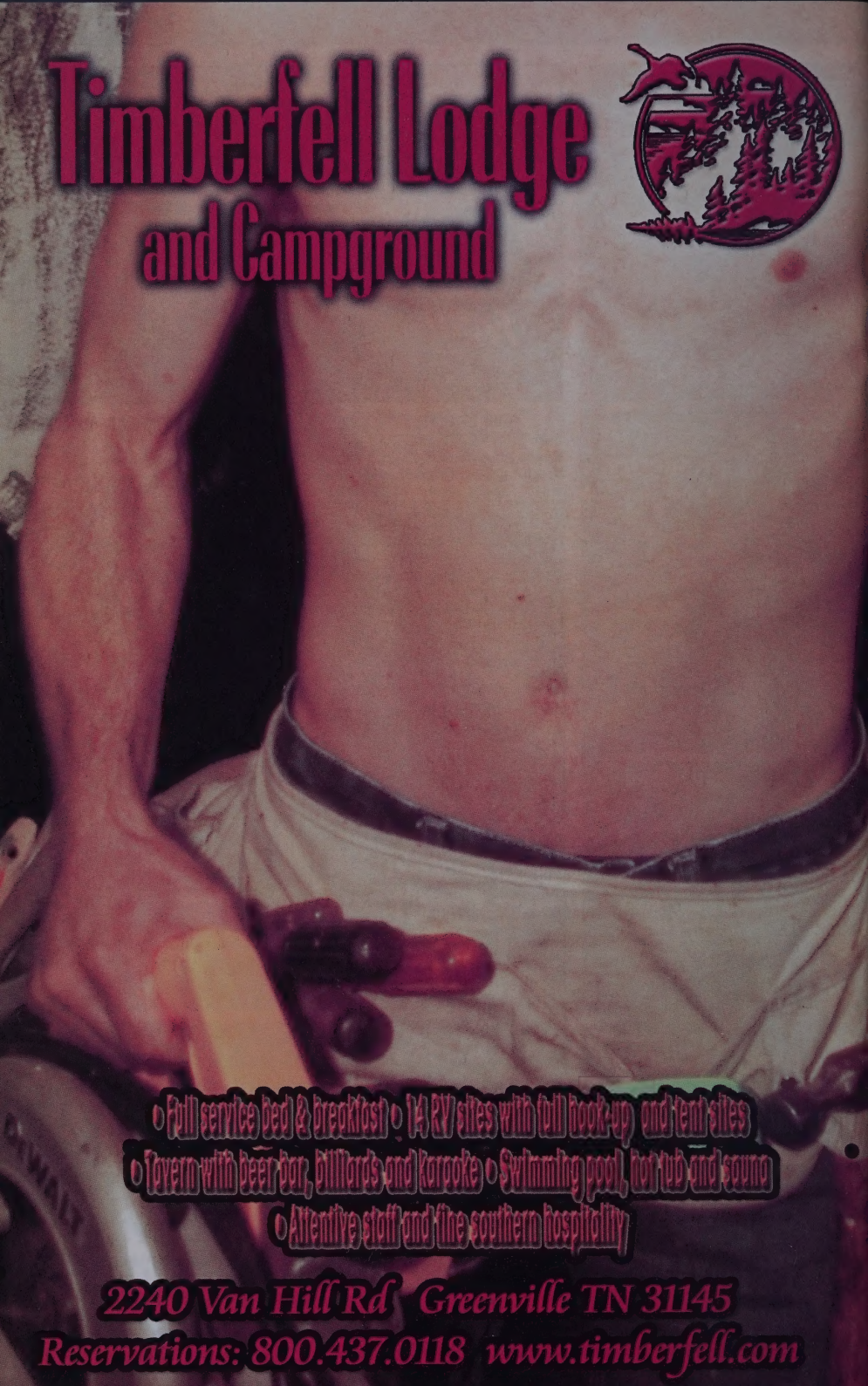
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ADAM &ANDY

BY JAMES ASAL

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WELL, ER...
ANDY HAD A REALLY LONG DAY AND HE'S WIPED OUT. HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE LEAVING THE HOUSE. ...YEAH. NEXT TIME? SURE. OKAY. BYE.
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THAT WAS BOB.
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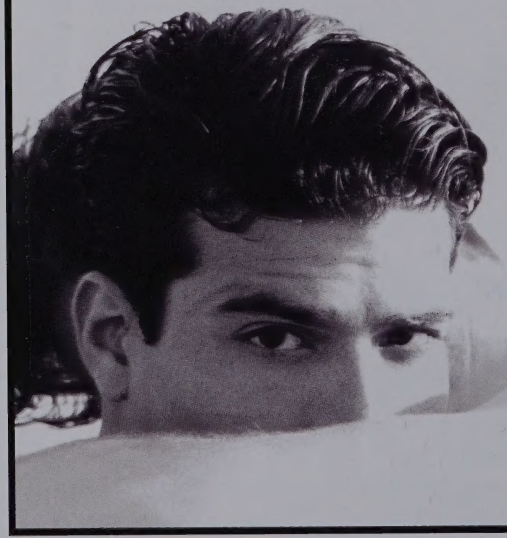

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To the guy who wrote that those wearing bathing suits are ogling those who don't: From what I have seen at nude beaches, I'd be happy if you kept your suit on.

Love these games guys play where at first they are head over heels then when you let your guard down and fall for them, that's when they fade away.

Why is it that so many bitches start with "Why is it that ...?"

Hey there, boys. I applaud you for your sense of self and your individualism, your willingness to set a course that is only yours and follow it. That logo on everything you wear says it all.

Muscles don't make the man. We all know totally masculine men with pot bellies. We all know effeminate queens who develop perfect gym bodies and are still effeminate queens.

To the idiot who doesn't like "bi-racial" couples: The correct term is "mixed-race couple." As a biracial person, I continue to be offended by the racial stupidity of Bitch Session.

When people tell me, "Don't worry, you'll find someone," I feel like saying, "I didn't know anyone was missing."

I can always count on this page to be nearly 100 percent testosterone free.

If you don't have a job and can't cover your part of the rent, how the hell do you afford what's up your nose?

Must I tell you to go away from my bathhouse door multiple times? Do you really think that "Sorry, I'm not interested" gives you permission to continue stalking?

Honey, don't call me "honey."

Bitching is fun! Bitching is anonymous! Do you really feel good about yourself when your bitch gets printed? I do, and I don't even have to see my name in print.

I don't have fag hags. I have friends, including those who are heterosexual women.

When a queer person takes the time and trouble to accomplish something of value, we should adopt that person as a role model, not drag that person through the mud out of envy.

It's 2004, and I for one do not care if trailer-living Middle America, accepts me or my European partner because they have as much intelligence and sophistication as monkeys on crack!

If we limited our lives to what Middle America can accept, this magazine wouldn't exist for people to bitch about the supposed need to placate Middle America.

To the opponent of biracial gay couples: My husband and I are not here to meet Middle America's expectations. We are here to speak our truth, which is we are not our similar genitalia or our vastly different ages or skin tones.

Oh please, as if anyone who doesn't object to two men being together as a loving couple cares whether or not one is of a different race.

When you're 45, can you still call yourself a circuit boy just because you only recently started partying?

I don't have to get a life. I bought one. At Crate & Barrel and Home Depot.

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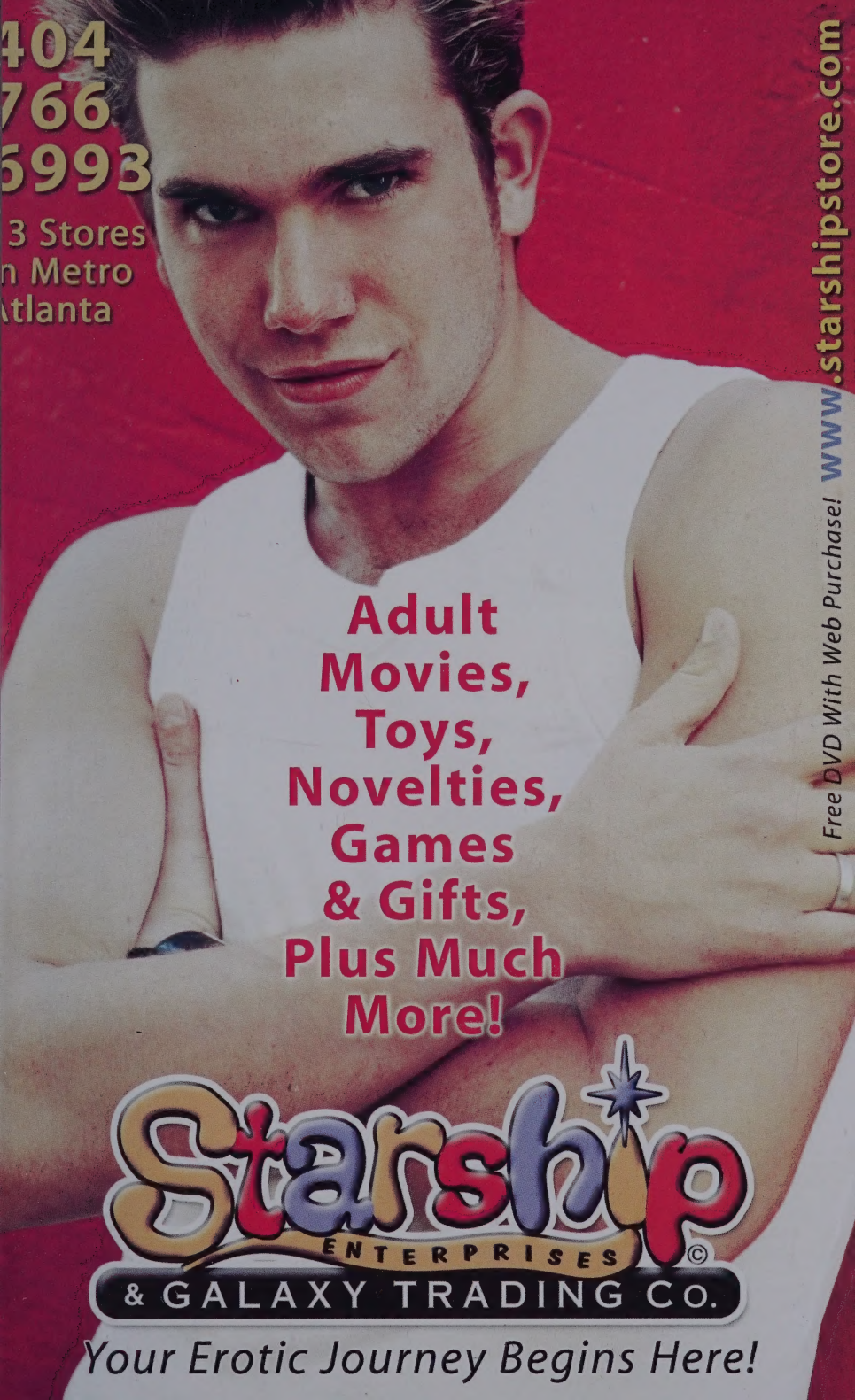
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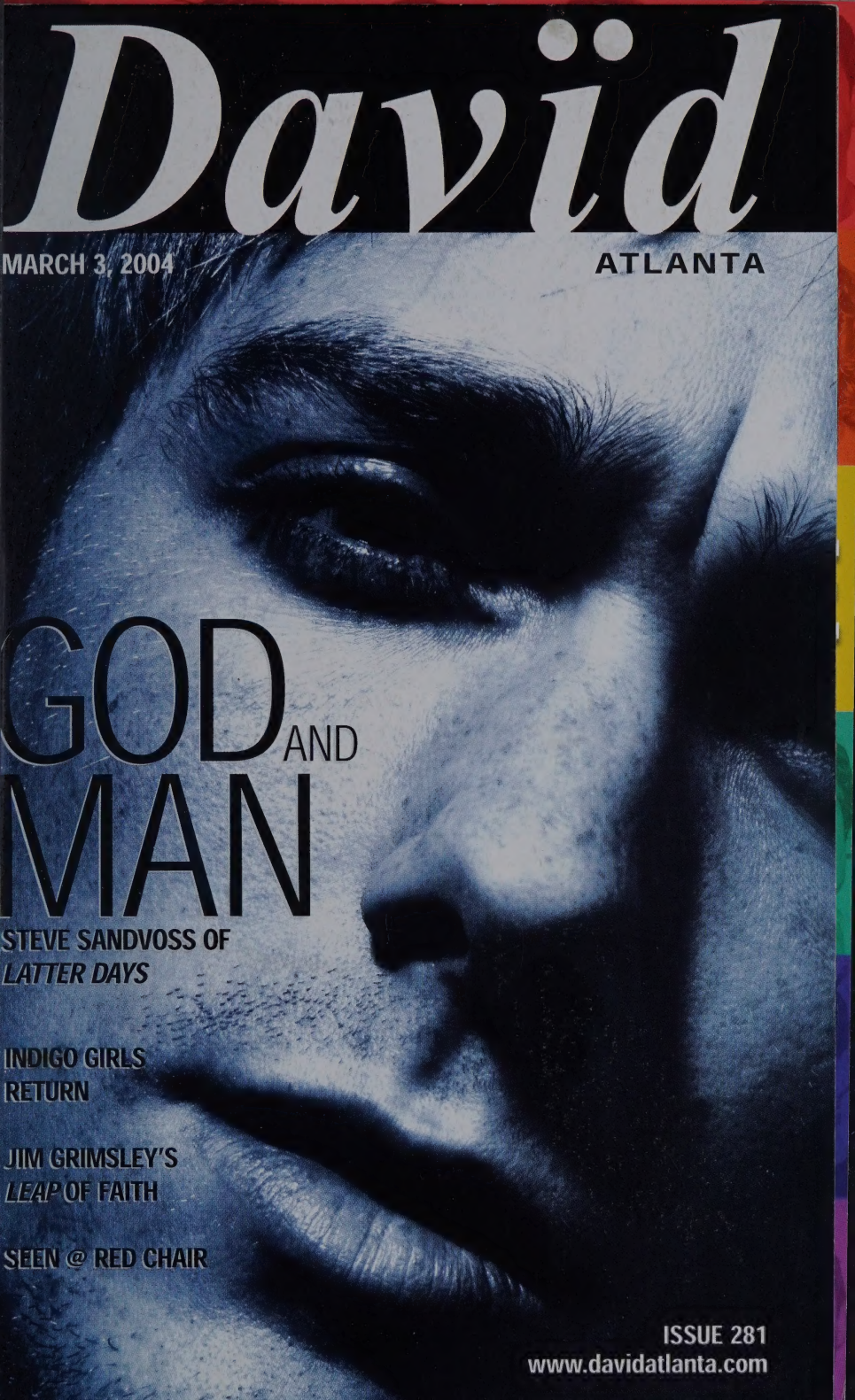

GOD AND MAN

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ISSUE 281

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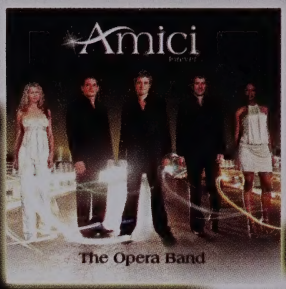

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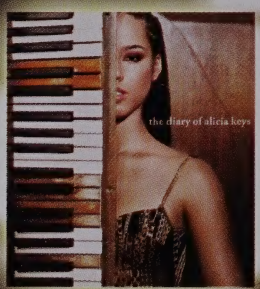

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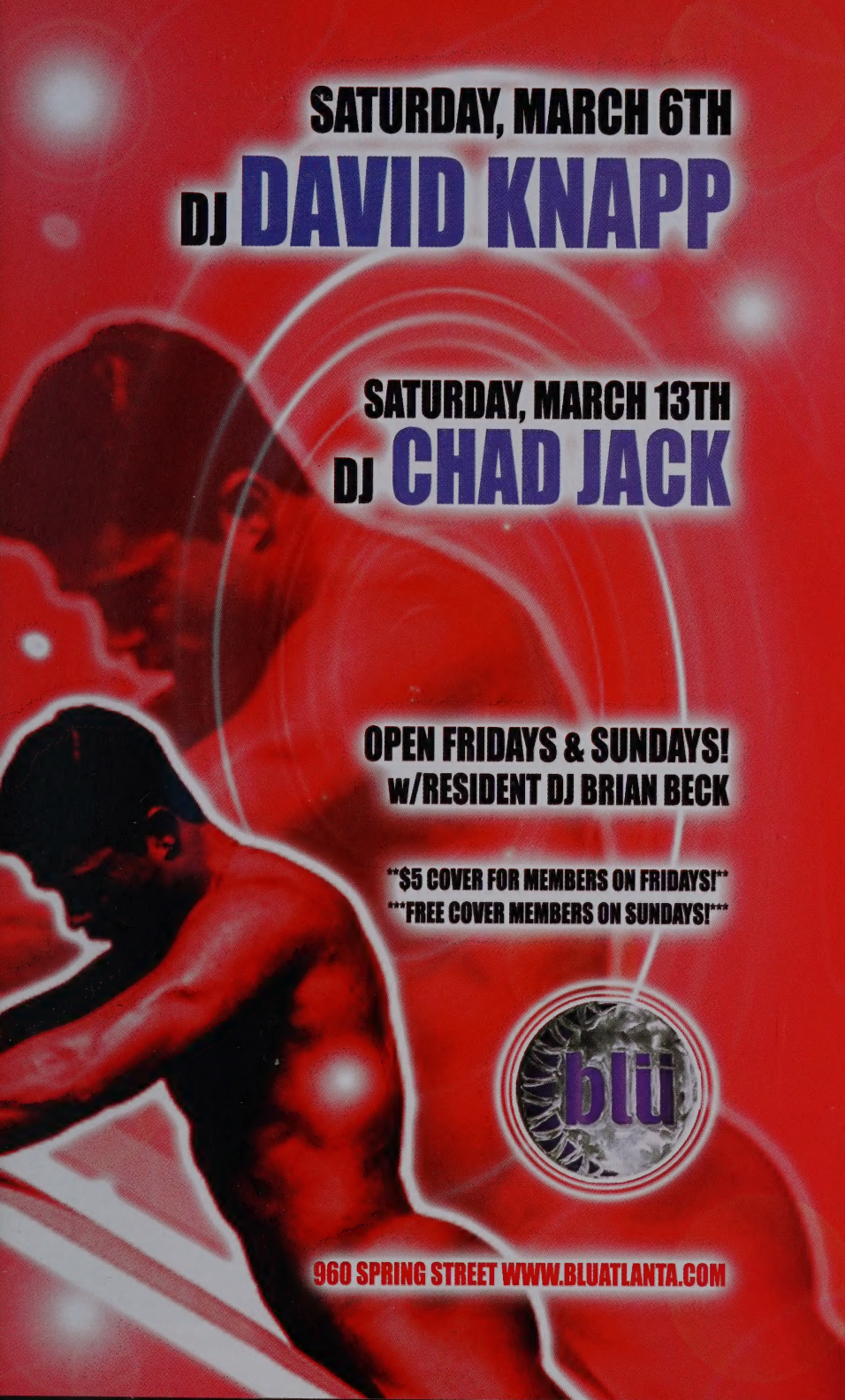
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2004

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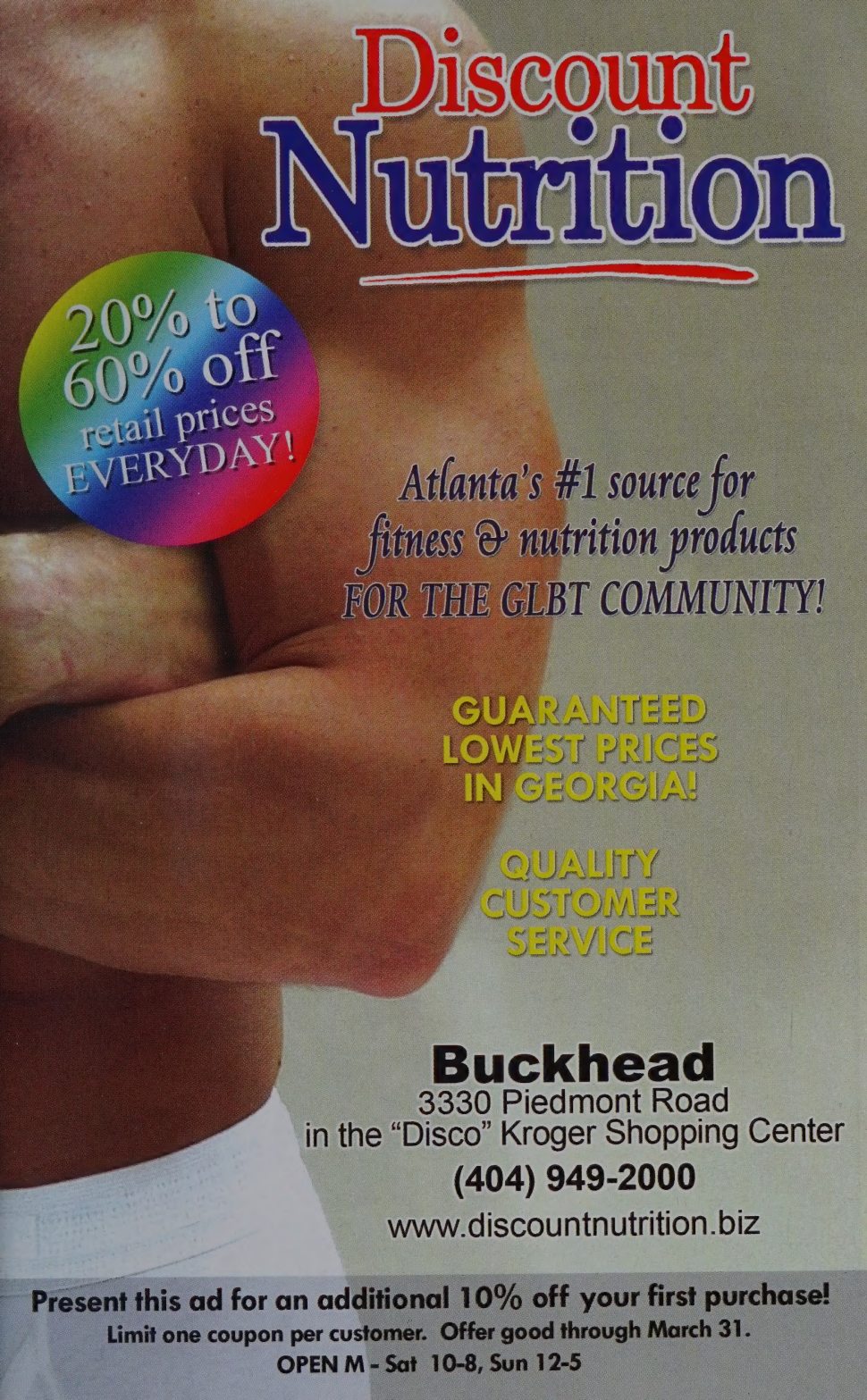
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EDITOR'S NOTE

TRAY BUTLER

DON'T BELIEVE THE OLD SAYING THAT THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS. God is in the details.

So says Paul Gonyea, senior minister for the Atlanta Church of Religious Science. But Paul's very valid point has been somewhat lost with me lately. These days my personal search for God (or the universe, or the sacred, whatever you want to call it) dwells more in the big picture than in the fine print.

Seems like questions of spirit are everywhere. I can't pick up a magazine, flip through cable or pop into Publix without hearing someone try to tell me what's on God's mind. My morning begins with a story on CNN about division over *The Passion of the Christ*; my night ends with a news item on how Christian convictions underscore our President's politics.

God obviously isn't dead — the poor guy's working overtime, to hear some people tell it.

Call it an act of providence, but this issue of *David* also ended up with an overabundance of spiritual dialogue. We're like a hymnal this week. Well, a hymnal with massage ads.

Our cover guy, the angelic Steve Sandvoss, stars in the controversial new film *Latter Days*, the tale of a missionary whose faith — and sexuality — come into question after moving to L.A. Christopher Brandon catches up with Steve to discuss the movie and also reviews the red-hot new *Christ* movie, which he calls a must-see.

Matters of faith take the stage in *Leap*, the Alliance Theatre's latest production. Brian Suber interviews Jim Grimsley, one of the show's contributing writers, who talks about his evangelical teen years and how being gay colors his views of the church now.

It's a question many of us struggle with, how to reconcile our sexuality with often conflicting spiritual teachings. I'm not going to claim I know the answers to that one. But, recent events have made me spot God in some rather unexpected places. Maybe Rev. Paul had a point after all.

Tray Butler
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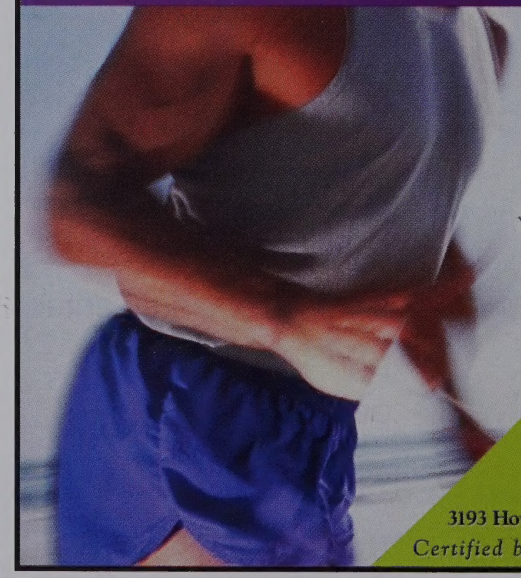

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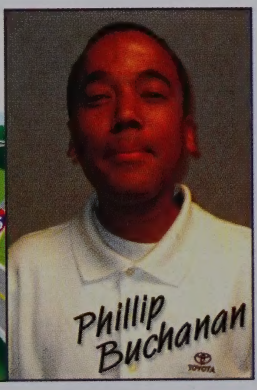

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SPORTS AUTHORITY? *Balls, Boys & Babes* at Red Chair

SPRING IS INDEED A-BUSTIN' out all over in preparation for the 68th annual **Atlanta Dogwood Festival** in Piedmont Park, set for April 2-4. This free festival is a gathering of artists, musicians and talent from across the nation ... and the eye candy is to die for!

My pants were a-bustin' out all over at the festival launch reception last week at the **Sheraton Colony Square** (yes, the one with the glass elevator that scares me to death!). The skilled event planners invited some sumptuous restaurants to share their delicious menus. Represented (among others) were **Fritti**, **Imperial Fez** and **Inman Park Patio**, quite a feast for this wee lad who's not eaten since 1983.

"I hate festivals," you say? Well, fear not. For those of you happy or hopeful homo homeowners, there's the **Midtown Tour of Homes**, April 3-4. The voyeur in me is always too happy to walk through rich people's homes and gawk. To indulge yourself, go to www.midtownhometour.com.

I COULD NOT GET MORE OF THE MEAT AND muscles at *Balls, Boys & Babes*, sponsored by the **Atlanta Gay Sports Alliance** at **Red Chair** last weekend. From the gay swimteam, the **Rainbow Trout**, to the women's rugby team, the **Atlanta Harlequins**, a plethora of sporty jocks and jockettes were present and partying ... and they can party.

"There's more testosterone here than a LPGA tour!" said **Alton Thomasson**, social chair for the Gay rugby team, the **Atlanta Bucks**.

SPEAKING OF RED CHAIR, I got the scoop from owner **Brad Williams** on his new nightclub, **Jungle**, which will occupy the space vacated by the Chamber in late March. Picture the sophisticated old-school days of the Tropicana with a twist of Limelight. Jungle will feature a performance stage and a wraparound lounge overlooking a huge dance floor.

Yes, boys, they will be serving alcohol and therefore have to obey this fair city's prohibition policies. While Saturdays will be anything goes on the dance floor, Friday night's theme is simple: Leave your clothes on! And for blushing (and scrawny) queens like me, this is a happy alternative." Check out www.jungleclub.net for opening information.

MY SPIES HAVE OFFERED ME A GLIMPSE of **Compound**, the new space off Howell Mill. From what I can gather there will be many venues within this walled paradise, from Rail to Ride to ... oh, you look at the Web site and figure it out (www.compoundatl.com). While it's straight, they're offering an "Alternative Lifestyles" night on Wednesdays (that phrase makes me giggle). Other nights include Dirty Tokyo, Blend and Alma -- a world of pretension that gives me a headache!

THE TEARS HAVE BEEN STAINING MY PILLOW since I was banned from covering the closing night party at the **Chamber** (let's be honest, I didn't want to pay the cover). I suppose what goes on at the Chamber stays in the Chamber.

One Chamber evening I was blessed/cursed to meet **Master Crazy**, a bizarre blond who wore black angel wings and led his girlfriend around on a leash and stuffed it in her mouth whenever she tried to talk. Am I missing something here?

Know of a scene this queen should cover? E-mail scenequeen@davidatlanta.com.

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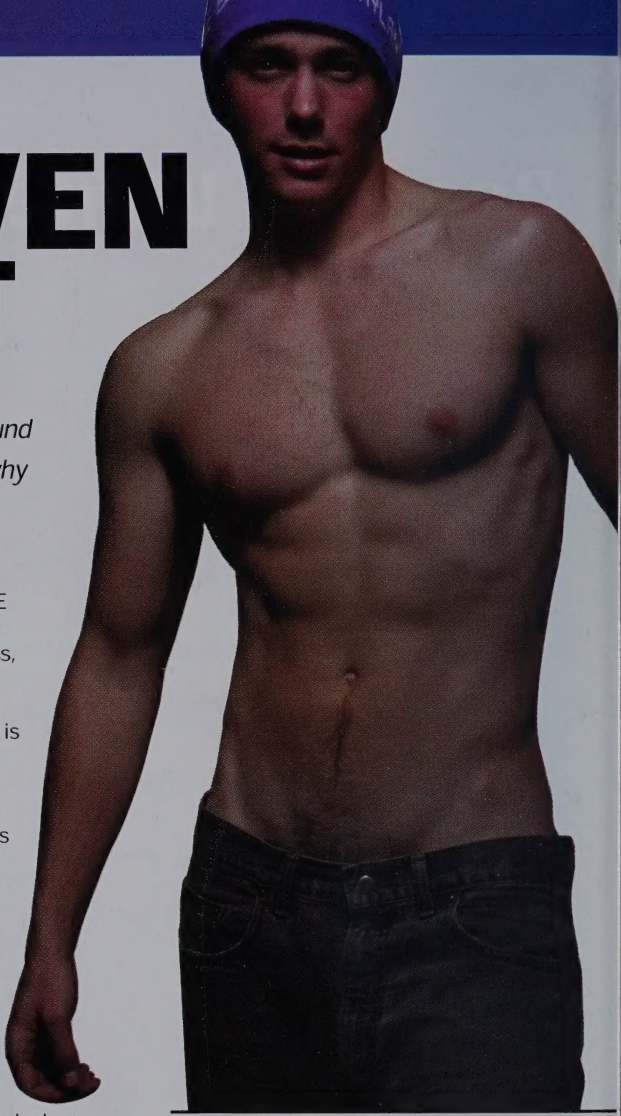
BY CHRISTOPHER BRANDON

HEAVEN SENT

Steve Sandvoss, star of Latter Days, *on his newfound fame, metrosexuals and why a gay fanbase matters*



NEXT TIME THE MORMONS COME banging on your door, be sure to answer. It could be Steve Sandvoss, and you do not want to miss him.

The unknown actor makes his film debut in *Latter Days*, and he is hot. He's so hot, you won't be able to take your eyes off him. After watching the movie, you'll find yourself downloading pictures of him off the Internet and flying to Los Angeles so you can stalk him on his way to the gym. Or maybe that's just me.

In *Latter Days*, he plays a young Mormon who ... oh, it doesn't fucking matter. Steve Sandvoss is so hot, you won't even notice there's an actual storyline unfolding. He's so hot, you'll leave the movie wondering why he hasn't been discovered yet.

Ever since *Latter Days* began making the rounds at gay film festivals, the gay press has been clamoring to chat with Steve, who is straight. He recently spoke with *David*.

***David:* What were you doing prior to this movie?**

Steve Sandvoss: I just graduated from college. I did a commercial for McDonalds, but I don't think it aired. This was my first feature.

Was this a risky role to make your debut?

Sure, but on the other hand it's gotten a lot of press and it's certainly raised a lot of controversy. The opportunities I knew it would present me outweighed the risk. I'm glad that I could do something like this instead of playing The Friend in a movie, which is how most young actors break in. They play The Friend like six times, and then somebody finally takes a risk and let's them have the lead.

How did you prepare for the role?

Missionaries came by my place so I could learn what Mormons are like. They can be kinda narrow minded, but you can't play narrow minded in the same way that you can't play gay. There are all different sorts of gay people just like there are all different sorts of people.

Would you consider yourself a metrosexual?

I like to wash my hair, but I don't get pedicures! I don't think I'm metrosexual though I was an English major in college and I do like poetry.

What has been the response to the film?

It's been pretty cool. We went to a bunch of film festivals, and every festival where we played we won an audience award. People have come up in tears or with huge smiles saying this is my story. That's been moving for me.

Are you aware that you've become a gay pinup?

If I have, that would be cool. It's so rare to have people appreciate you as an actor. It will be nice to have some scream-ing teenage girl fans, too.

I suspect that will be next.

That would be cool. Actually, I'm up for a big fat horror movie where I might play this football player who gets laid and then gets his head chainsawed off. That would be a little meaningless, but really fun.

Your Web site contains some pretty sexy pictures. Was that done intentionally?

Yeah, my manager suggested that. He told me it's possible that everyone's going to think you're really buttoned up. He said you've got to be yourself, so he encouraged me to get those sexier pictures done.

Is it important for a young actor to have a gay fanbase?

I think it's important to have fans of all kinds. There's a line from 'Sex and the City' that Kim Cattrall's character says: 'First the gays, then the girls, then the industry.'

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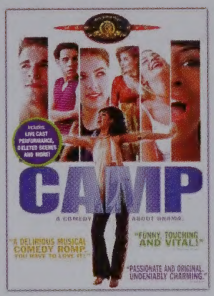

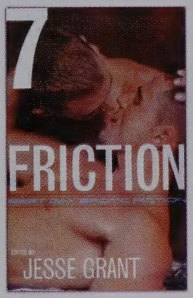

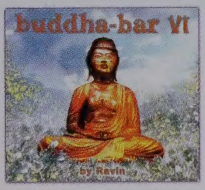

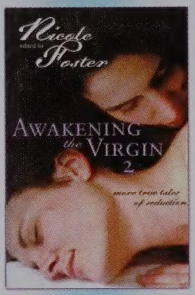

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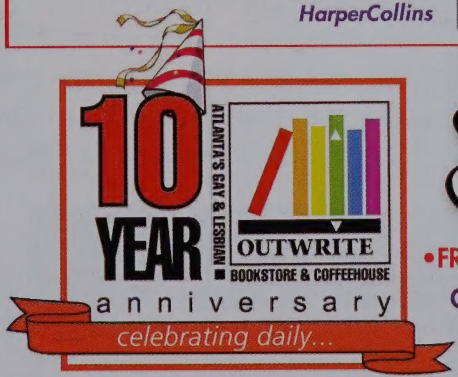

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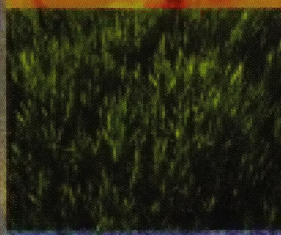

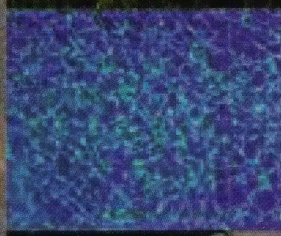

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BY CHRISTOPHER BRANDON

Steve Sandvoss and Wes Ramsey in *Latter Days*. (CARL BARTELS)

PASSION PLAYS

Two vastly different movies on religion generate controversy nationwide

STEVE SANDVOSS IS NOT JUST A MUSCLE boy with fantastic arms and a magnetic smile. He's also the heart and soul of ***Latter Days***, and he carries the whole damn movie on his broad shoulders.

He plays a young Mormon named Aaron, who moves to Los Angeles to do missionary work. He's immediately preyed upon by party boy Christian (Wes Ramsey). When it turns out Aaron may actually be gay, devotion to his family and church clashes with his burgeoning sexuality. It's an intriguing story that should resonate strongly with Atlanta queers whose own Southern Baptist heritage may have caused further difficulty coming out.

The movie squeaks by on this remarkable plot and a prescient wake-up call to the circuit queens out there who think life is nothing but working out and dancing 'til dawn. Aaron's struggle causes Christian to question his own shallow lifestyle, and he soon finds himself looking for more substance than one-night stands. He wants sex to mean something.

The film has attracted an inordinate amount of press, thanks to the decision of Madstone Theaters to drop the title from its Trolley Square Theater in Salt Lake City. Gay groups nationally howled at the decision, accusing the chain of bowing to pressure from Mormons who threatened to protest the film. Madstone's top brass responded by saying the movie "lacked artistic merit."

Admittedly, the movie delivers its message with weak performances and stiff dialogue. When Christian asks one of his coworkers if he believes in God, the response is, "You mean other than Madonna?" Lame lines like that looks great on paper but just doesn't translate well to film.

With such shoddy writing, it's no wonder first-time director C. Jay Cox has trouble staging drama. Several pivotal scenes feel awkward, including one key moment following a hot hotel romp in which Christian unloads a long speech that includes child abandonment and what sounds like pedophilia. It's supposed to be poignant, but it's just creepy.

Despite these amateurish flares, *Latter Days* is ultimately a fantastic romance and one of the best gay films released in years.

RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS ARE A LOT LESS personal and far more global in ***The Passion of the Christ***.

Mel Gibson's controversial film is sweeping the nation, powered by Christian groups who have rallied around the film. It's easy to see why. *Passion* vividly brings to life all those boring sermons that Homer Simpson snoozes through every Sunday in church.

Vivid may be the understatement of the year. The film is a brutal, unflinching view of the last 12 hours of Christ's life. It's a two-hour bloodbath.

Jesus, played stoically by James Caviezel, is captured, condemned, tortured, further condemned, tortured more and eventually crucified. That's all the story told in this film, and it's the absence of context that's stirring all the controversy.

Gibson, who angered gays when he killed off a queer character in Braveheart as an applause moment, is now angering Jews who fear *Passion* may unleash anti-Semitic behavior. In the film, Jewish priests call for Jesus's execution, which the Roman soldiers sadistically carry out. Ultimately, several folks, not just the Jews, are responsible for these events, and the few sympathetic characters are actually Jewish.

Other critics claim Gibson's vision lacks historical accuracy and point out improper hairstyles. The entire film, however, is spoken in Aramaic and Hebrew with English subtitles, which lends it an air of authenticity never seen before in Biblical epics.

So is it anti-Semitic? Nope. Is it historically accurate? Sure. But the only question that really matters to a general moviegoer is: Should I spend $7.50 to see it? The answer is an astounding yes. Artistically, *Passion* is a hugely entertaining film sure to stir emotion, whether you're a true believer or not.

It's beautifully photographed with several scenes that look like Italian Renaissance paintings, and it's directed with such relentless fervor that you can feel every ounce of Gibson's, well, passion.

Fortunately, he's a talented filmmaker who's smart to temper the bloodshed with human moments. One of the film's nicest surprises is the touching relationship between Jesus and his mother, Mary. She's always nearby, hiding in the crowd and sobbing, which serves as a nice reflection of the audience.

It turns out this is a movie about personal struggle after all.

Latter Days *is now playing at United Artists Tara Cinemas.*

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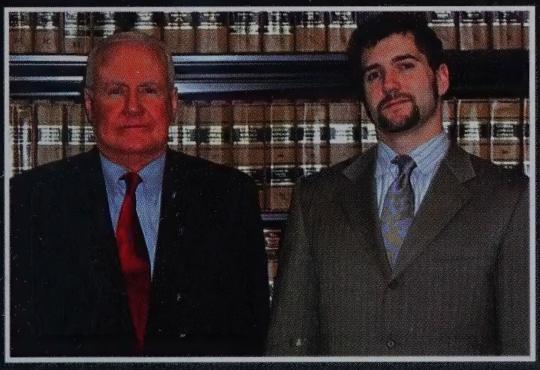

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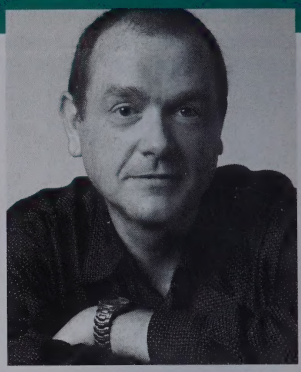
BY BRIAN SUBER



JIM GRIMSLEY'S LEAP OF FAITH

Gay playwright joins a who's-who of Atlanta theater for Alliance premiere

TUCKED AWAY IN HIS BOOK-FILLED OFFICE off the quad at Emory University, writer Jim Grimsley speaks easily about his latest theater project, *Leap*. The collaborative show examines faith and religion in an unconventional and individual way.

Coincidentally, the conversation is held the day before Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* opens and the same day political leaders bandied religious arguments to support a constitutional marriage amendment.

"Because the world is so damned unsettled right now, we don't feel so sure of ourselves," Grimsley says of all the religious talk swirling around politics and popular culture.

The director of creative writing at Emory has staged plays in Atlanta and Chicago, and provides a seasoned gay voice to *Leap*.

"I was a very Christian teenager who was aggressively missionary," he recalls of his years growing up in North Carolina. "I always felt so terribly mortal and wanted to find out about dying."

Educated (in books) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and (in life) in New Orleans, where he lived for a time after college, Grimsley moved to Atlanta in 1981. His first play opened here two years later.

He's produced and published critically lauded works including the novels *Winter Birds and My Drowning,* and the American Library Association GLBT Award-winner, *Dream Boy*.

Since the mid-1980s he's served as playwright in residence at 7 Stages, a progressive theater well-regarded for tackling often-ticklish topics.

When Alliance Theatre Artistic Director and close friend, Susan V. Booth, approached Grimsley about contributing to a project she had in mind about faith, he signed on quickly.

In addition to Booth and Grimsley, the creative team includes long-time friends and collaborators Rosemary Newcott, Bill Nigut, Megan Monaghan, Tom Key, Carol Mitchell-Leon and Michael Fauss.

The team discussed, wrote, and performed what would become *Leap* for almost two years. What was born is both personal and touching.

"What we were trying to look at was what the connections between religions were," says Grimsley. "Anyone who believes in God has a connection with other people. People from different backgrounds don't always approach religion differently."

He drew on his own spirituality for the project, saying he's less likely as a gay man to look to an organization to give him a spiritual foundation.

Leap's premiere will be something unusual for the Alliance, a theater that traditionally draws an older and more conservative crowd.

He admits he's never been a good predictor of what buttons a particular show will push with an audience. Atlanta theatergoers are typically most stirred by salty language and graphic images.

Walking a tight-rope has long been a facet of the writer's life, as he divides his time between teaching, writing, reading and the theater. At Emory, he found a supportive environment and colleagues that care about his writing.

He is currently half-way through a new novel, is "tossing around" a new play idea and is mulling a nonfiction book on school desegregation.

Leap *runs March 10-April 10 at the Alliance Theatre's Hertz Stage. $25-$31. 404-733-5000. www.alliancetheatre.org.*

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BY LUCAS MIRÉ

LOVE LOSS

Let the new Indigo Girls' CD in, but let Courtney Love go

"THEY SAY THAT ROCK IS DEAD AND THEY'RE probably right," Courtney Love proclaims on the opening track of her sarcastically titled solo debut, *America's Sweetheart*.

But who would have thought she'd be the one putting the final nail in the coffin?

America's Sweetheart is a tiring train wreck of rock songs coasting solely on Love's irritating bravado and bombast.

Things start off promising with "Mono," the first single. The nearly four-minute rant is easily the best thing here and stands toe-to-toe with Love's past glories with the now-defunct group Hole. When Love lets loose a feral "HEY!" over "Mono"'s opening chords, it seems as if she's back and better than ever. But, by the time she starts the second song the same way, her return already starts to seem a little stale and calculated.

And that's Love's biggest problem on *America's Sweetheart*. In fact, "Mono" could be part of an apt description for rest of the record: Monotonous.

Love's feeble attempt at rock balladeering on "Hold On to Me" is a painfully transparent plea for radio airplay. Unfortunately, the song comes off like vintage Whitesnake with Tawny Kitaen on lead vocals.

To make matters worse, there's not one song here as lush and hooky as, say, "Malibu," the excellent lead single from Hole's swansong, "Celebrity Skin." "Sunset Strip" has charm, but not enough.

If you're a Courtney Love fan, you'll probably enjoy *America's Sweetheart*, if only to hear your favorite bad girl try to raise a ruckus. For those still on the fence, you'll find little here to assuage your indifference.

YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO THE INDIGO GIRLS. Twelve releases into their rock-solid career, they continue to turn out album after album of well-written, exquisitely performed folk pop.

They may tinker with the formula a bit with each release, but, if you like what they do, picking up a CD of theirs is as close to risk-free shopping as a music buyer can get.

Their new CD, *All That We Let In*, fits perfectly with their back catalogue, while managing to take a few musical chances.

Both a return to their roots and an intriguing departure, the new recording is less overtly political than 1997's heavy-handed "Shaming of the Sun," and more rootsy than the lush string arrangements that decorated 2002's "Become You." There's plenty of treehugger lyrical imagery about volunteerism, shrinking water supplies, gun control, reservoirs and boycotts, but there's also the ska-lite pep of Amy Ray's "Heartache for Everyone" and the lighthearted buoyancy of Emily Saliers' "Fill It Up Again."

Saliers even gives a shout out to Sugarland, the Atlanta supergroup featuring Kristen Hall, Jennifer Nettles, and Kristian Bush in the wonderful album closer "Rise Up."

Indigo Girls have always had something important to communicate with their tunes, but on *All That We Let In* they seem to have rediscovered how to have fun while saying it.

MELISSA ETHERIDGE

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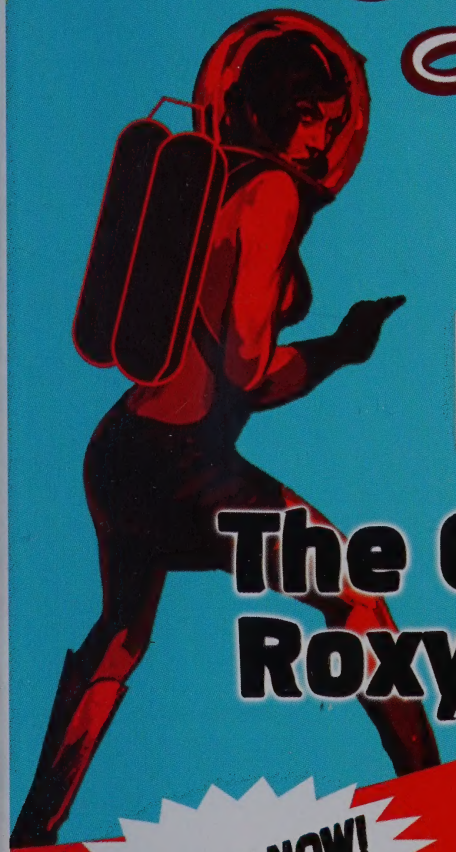

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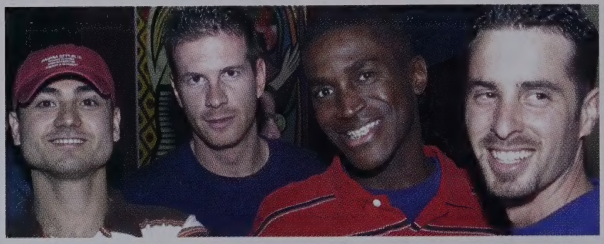

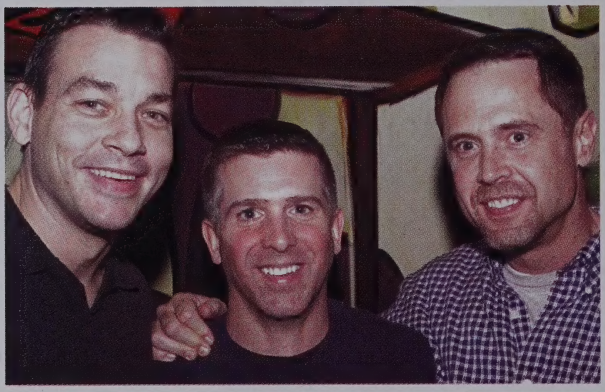

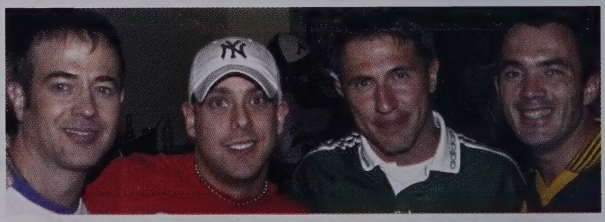

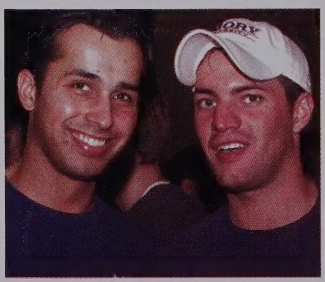

>>>For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:28>>>And they overcame him by the Blood of Jesus and by the word of their testimony Re

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>>>We now have access to God's Presence by the Blood of Jesus. Hebrews 10:19>>>And, we have peace through the blood of His cross. Hebrews 1:20>>>It is the blood that maketh an atonement.

BY TRAY BUTLER

DANIEL TROPPY

(RUSS YOUNGBLOOD)

The local artist discusses self-perception, his philanthropy and playing sidekick to a Bleachy-Haired Honky Bitch

VITAL STATS

AGE: 40
STATUS: In a relationship
CLAIM TO FAME: Self-taught visual artist, represented locally by Marcia Wood Gallery, and a recurring character in Hollis Gillespie's *Moodswing* column
NEXT APPEARANCE: Appears with Gillespie as she signs her new book March 5 at Outwrite Bookstore, 8 p.m.

YOU MAY THINK YOU KNOW DANIEL TROPPY, but you don't. Yes, the artist shows up often in Hollis Gillespie's weekly tell-all column in *Creative Loafing.* And some rather intimate details of his life do surface in Gillespie's new book, *Bleachy-Haired Honky Bitch.*

But the real Daniel comes across as more down to earth than the character in print, which may explain why he sometimes lends the voice of sanity to neurotic Hollis and her clique of oddball personalities.

Troppy, one of the column's recurring gay characters, doesn't mind the spotlight cast upon by him by his favorite fag hag. He sees Gillespie's craft as a reflection of his own agenda as a visual artist. No details are too much, it turns out, so long as they're rendered honestly.

On the eve of the publication of Gillespie's memoir by Reagan Books, we had a chance to dig deeper to find out how Daniel feels about his small taste of fame.

***David:* How long have you known Hollis?**
Daniel Troppy: About ten years. She was sent over to do a story on my artwork from *Atlanta* magazine. She comes knocking on my door — and this was the old Hollis, hair in a bun, cardigan sweater, still living in Roswell with this whole suburban lifestyle — and the minute I opened the door I knew that she'd be in my life for a while.

When did you start showing up as a character in her writing?

She started writing for *Poets, Artists & Madmen,* and it happened soon after that. It was funny because it could have been any Daniel. I would read it at first like it was just another character, not like it was myself.

It's the same way with my paintings. After I paint something I don't remember the actual process of painting it. I see it again later for the first time.

Does she capture the real you, or does she paint a picture of you that you don't see?

I think she does capture it. It's like when you ask a total stranger to tell you something about yourself. They'll tell you something that you might not know, or something that you

know but you don't *really* know — like that you pick your nose. You know that, but you also don't really know that.

Has there ever been a case when she told too much?

No, and I would not mind if she did. She just has this beautiful way with words. She always punches you in the gut in the end and makes you cry. It's always a perfectly orchestrated song. I can appreciate that as an artist. She's really honest and she teaches you to be honest and to put it out there.

Even when it comes to sex?

She doesn't really write much about my sex life because I'm in a long-term committed thing. I don't really go around telling her to sleep with, say, black men, like Grant does. But Hollis will tell you that out of the three characters that I'm the most stable and sane of all them.

Is that true?

I don't know. I paint. I'm in some galleries. I'm working on launching a new Web site, connectingart.org, which will be a way for mental health treatment centers to generate funds for their art programs. It'll be up and running in a just a couple more weeks. So I think she sees that stuff and sees me as the most productive member of the group.

Tell me about your art.

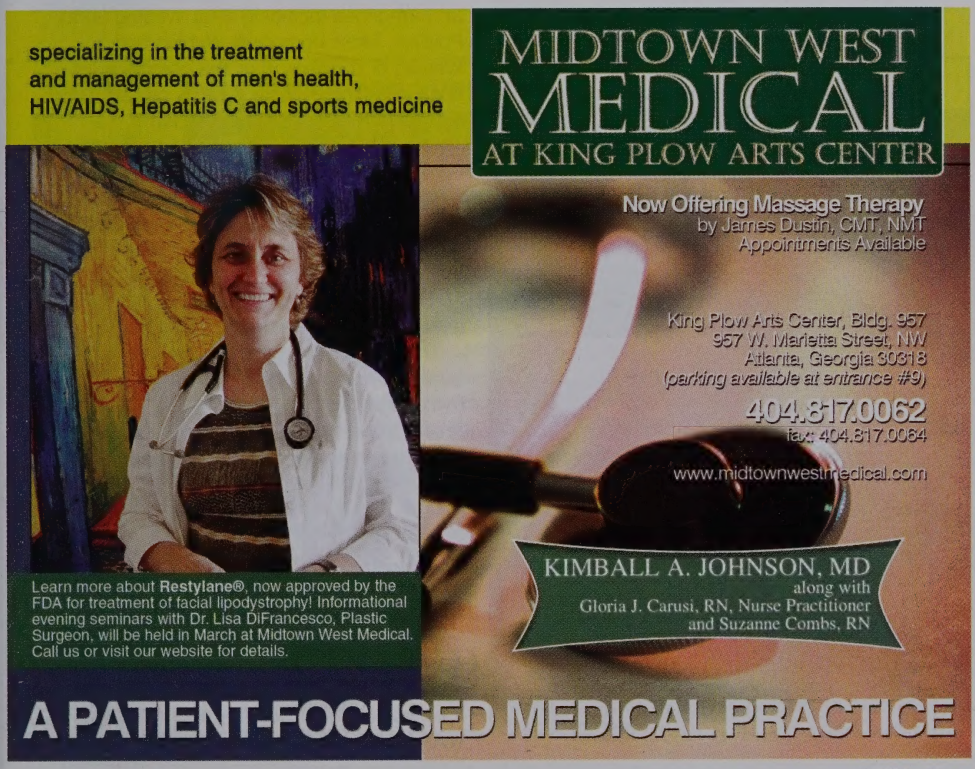
I started off doing found objects that looked like folk art and assembling them to look like people. Then I wanted to paint, so I picked up a paint brush and started. I'm totally self taught. It's taken me several years to get to this point.

I also teach four days a week at Hillside Hospital, which is a children's psychiatric hospital. I've been an art teacher there for five years now.

So will you be on hand for any of her local book signings?

I am. I'll be at the March 4 event at Paris on Ponce. But I can't fucking believe she'd schedule that party in middle of 'Friends'! I don't even own a VCR. I've gotta find someone who's got TiVo.

We're also going to her Outwrite appearance. But really, we're going to go just to heckle her.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Gloria J. Carusi, RN, Nurse Practitioner
and Suzanne Combs, RN
A PATIENT-FOCUSED MEDICAL PRACTICE

BY CHRISTOPHER BRANDON

MY WEBLOG IS BETTER THAN YOURS

A look at the gay nominees for this year's Bloggie Awards

SURELY YOU'VE HEARD OF THE OSCARS, the Grammys and the Emmys. But what about the Bloggies?

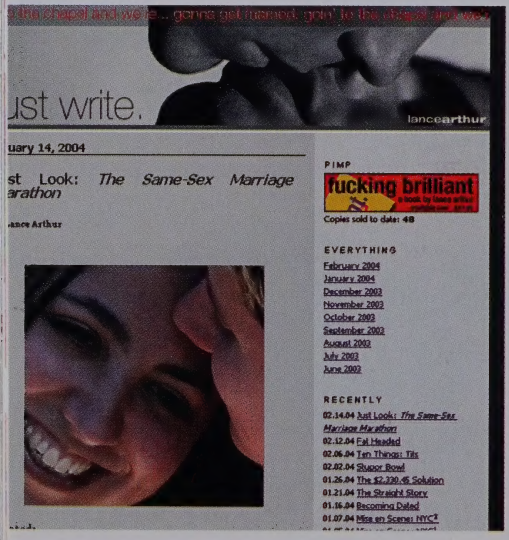
Inspired by the entertainment industry's biggest events, The Bloggie Awards have been presented every year since 2001 to the Internet's best blogs.

In case you're wondering what the heck a blog is (welcome back from Mars, by the way), it's short for "weblog," a Web site containing dated entries. Think of them as online diaries, an online trend that's been around for a couple of years now. Like AOL chat and Friendster, blogs have attracted a strong following of gay Web surfers.

Until last year, blogs were confined to a niche group of geeky Internet pundits with advanced Web skills and big opinions. But all that changed in 2003 when one of the leading Internet companies, Google, purchased a start-up called Blogger that provides a free blogging service. Recognizing the significance of this move, ISPs like AOL and EarthLink began offering their members free, easy-to-use Blogging tools. The number of blogs suddenly exploded, and several high profile blogs attracted strong media attention.

Within the rapidly growing blogosphere, the Bloggies are the most coveted honor. It's expected that this year's Bloggie Awards will attract unprecedented media attention when they are presented March 15 in Austin, Texas. Prizes will be awarded in 30 categories including Best Weblog about Politics, Most Humorous Weblog and Weblog of the Year. (For the complete list of nominees, the Bloggie Awards can be found on the web at www.bloggies.com.)

One of the most competitive categories is Best GLBT Weblog. This year's nominees include highly respected weblogs and a few newcomers. The nominees for Best GLBT Weblog are:



LITTLE. YELLOW. DIFFERENT.
www.littleyellowdifferent.com

The category's top nominee was the big winner at last year's Bloggie Awards. LYD took home four prizes including Weblog of the Year. And it deserves it. Ernie's been entertaining thousands of loyal readers since June 2000 with tales of being a gay, Asian-American male living in northern California throughout the boom and bust of the dotcom era.

JUST WRITE (shown at left)
www.lancearthur.com

Lance Arthur is a bit of a celebrity in the weblogging world. He's self-published his own book called *Fucking Brilliant*, which is a collection of previous — and very long — weblog entries.

ONLINE continued

SWIRLSPICE (shown at right)
www.swirlspice.com

This newcomer to the Bloggie Awards is the category's only female nominee. SwirlSpice is updated obsessively by Erica, a fierce lesbian from Detroit with strong opinions on everything from politics to music.

PLASTICBAG.ORG
www.plasticbag.org

PlasticBag.org is a blog written (sometimes in the third person) by a Londoner named Tom Coates, whose daily warblings are often sarcastic and always funny. Check out Tom's "Best of PlasticBag.org" for a comprehensive index of his blog's entire four years.

HOW TO LEARN SWEDISH IN 1000 DIFFICULT LESSONS
francisstrand.blogspot.com

According to this blog's bio, it's written by Francis Strand, a 42-year-old American man living in Stockholm with his Swedish husband. He professes to love the country and its people, but his attempts to become fluent in Swedish have been less than successful. He ends every post with the Swedish word for the day.

Christopher Brandon writes a weekly film column for David. *He maintains his own blog at boysbriefs.blogspot.com, which was sadly overlooked by the Bloggie Awards.*

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INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP

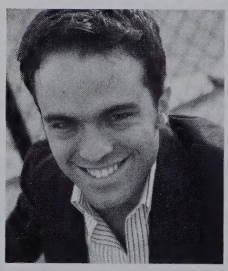
DATEBOOK

BY BRIAN SUBER

B-A-A-A-D TIMING

After a brief lull in local theater, Atlanta stages have ratcheted up offerings with several openings. 7 Stages is serving up Samuel Beckett's existential classic ***Waiting for Godot,*** beginning March 4. Across Midtown, Actor's Express pulls the curtain on the newest Edward Albee work ***The Goat or Who is Sylvia?*** on March 7. The show involves a middle-aged architect at the height of his career who has a devoted wife, a gay son, and a mysterious other "woman," who happens not to be a woman at all.

7 Stages, 1105 Euclid Ave. March 4-April 4. $10-$50. www.7stages.org. 404-523-7647. Actor's Express, 887 W. Marietta St. March 4-April 10. $10.75-$26.75. 404-607-SHOW. www.actorsexpress.com

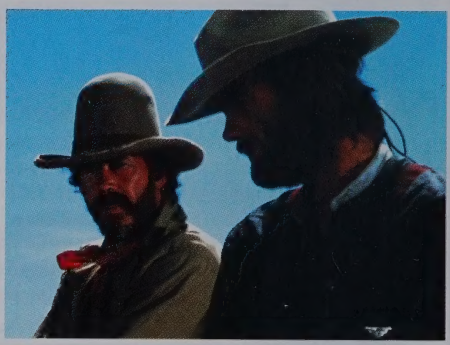


PRIDE COMES EARLY

It's that time again to begin planning for the holiest of all weekends. This year's **Atlanta Pride Festival** is months away, but organizers are already planning and partying. The Pride Committee announces the kickoff of the "Friends of Pride" fundraising campaign with a **Beat the Winter Blues** party March 7. The event is slated to begin raising a targeted $35,000 in individual contributions. Local "Today's Superstar" celebrity Chris Burke (above) and DJ Brian Craft will provide entertainment. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine and cocktails. *Mid City Lofts, 845 Spring St. March 7, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. $35-$120. www.atlantapride.org.*

FOR ART'S SAKE

If you're ready to take a culture break from the bar scene and add a little art to your diet, you may want to check out **After Hours at the High**. The March 4 event opens the doors to the city's premier museum for visitors to take a tour, practice their own creativity at an adult art-making workshop, and de-stress to the music of the Pineda Kosche String Duo. Dinner and cash bar. *High Museum of Art, 1280 Peachtree St. March 4. 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Members: Free, Public: $10. 404-733-4575. www.high.org.*



COWBOY ENVY

Give your DVD player a break from *Sex and the City* reruns and add to your film trivia knowledge. Atlanta's IMAGE Film & Video Center and Sundance Channel are teaming up to spotlight award-winning but oft-forgotten films each month. In March, the film is Peter Fonda's gritty 1971 Western and directorial debut, ***The Hired Hand***. *Landmark Theatres Midtown Arts Cinema, March 3, 7:30 p.m. $8. 404-352-4225. www.imagefv.org.*

HOT DATES

03.03 **Peachtree Street from Its Rural Beginnings to Today:** You're forever tricking in bars around it, maybe it's time to learn its history.
Rhodes Hall, 1516 Peachtree. 7 p.m. Free. 404-885-7800. www.rhodeshall.org

03.05 **Rags to Riches:** Join beauty Martina Diamante at Metro for this weekly dress-up game and win cash. *Metro, 1080 Peachtree St. midnight. $5. 404-874-9869.*

03.06 **99X Presents The Meteora World Tour 2004:** Linkin Park, Hoobastank, P.O.D ... this ain't your mama's rock 'n roll. *Philips Arena. $34.50. 404-249-6400. www.philipsarena.com*

03.07 **Orchid Daze: Winter Edition:** Flower-lovers rejoice in varieties from Mexico and Latin America. *Atlanta Botanical Garden, 1345 Piedmont Ave. Opens 9 a.m. $10. 404-876-5859. www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org.*

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com For more complete information on each bar, see our Nightlife Calendar.

WED 03.03

ARMORY. Pandemonium. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BACKSTREET ATLANTA. Michael Roberts, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Rob Reum 1 a.m.-7 a.m.
BLAKE'S. The Lust & the Bust, starring Lena Lust, Shawna Brooks and Alexandria Martin.
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke jackpot.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
CHAPARRAL. Flamin'Hot Wednesdays with hot bods, go-go boys, contests.
CLUB 708. Open mic night, 10 p.m. Mini-Ball drag show, 2 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge night.
HERETIC. Drop your top and join the crowd at dress code party, 10 p.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Menergy male dancers, 11 p.m.
METRO. Maxine Blue hosts Urban Spin featuring DJ Jones. 10 p.m. Drag show at 11:30 p.m. starring Feleshia Sapphire, Yanae Van Michaels and guests.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
OSCARS. Comedy night, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. "The L Word," 8 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m., $2 after 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
VISION. Skin and Sin Wednesdays. Open bar 10–11 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m. – 3a.m.

THU 03.04

BACKSTREET: Michael Roberts 10 p.m.-2 a.m. and Brett Long 2 a.m., Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 12 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Absolut Thursdays. 10 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke Idol jackpot.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix w/ Martina Diamante, Savannah Lee and Alicia Kelly. 11:30 p.m.
CLUB 708. Trade Thursdays plus Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Bad Boy Thursday, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear party, 10 p.m.

FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
HALO. The polished basement bar in the Biltmore attracts a mixed-gay crowd of fashionistas and fag hags.
HERETIC. Experience Rapture dance party.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, 8 p.m., Ladies Night
LE BUZZ. Court of Kings drag kings, 10 p.m.
MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.
METRO. DJ Randy starts spinning at 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Talent search, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Alternating open-mic and singer-songwriter night.
THE OSCARS ATLANTA. Pure energy, pure video, 9 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. Suede, 10 p.m., Free well drinks 11 p.m.–12 a.m.

FRI 03.05

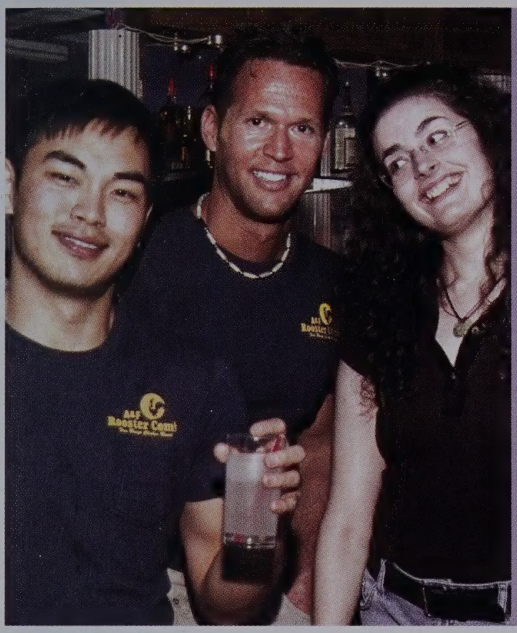
ARMORY. Girls night out. Le Femme Royale with Sophia McIntosh, Paula Sinclair and Tina Devore, 11:30 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 11 p.m. Bill Berdeaux midnight-7 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Bingo with Bubba D. Licious, 7 p.m.
BLU. DJ Brian Beck.
THE BREAKING POINT. Out In Country: country music night with free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. International gay night, 10 p.m.-4 a.m.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m. Blackout Fridays.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. Sweat, 10 p.m.- 3 a.m.
MARY'S. Danceteria. 9 p.m.
METRO. Martina Diamante's game show "Rags to Riches." Finalists compete for $100. Midnight. DJ Jason starts at 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Live music and special events.
RED CHAIR. Come join the crowd and see what all the talk is about.
TRIPPS. Disco night, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

SAT 03.06

ARMORY. Le Femme Royale with Sophia McIntosh, Paula Sinclair and Tina Devore, 11:30 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 11 p.m. Rob Reum midnight-7 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Madonna-Rama, hosted by Jealousé.
BLU. DJ David Knapp.
THE BREAKING POINT. Cabaret show and drag fights.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar, 11:30 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
LE BUZZ. LeGirlzz of LeBuzz drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
METRO. "Caliente!" international mix with DJ Martin. 10 p.m..
MODEL T. Model Teez Girlz drag show, 11 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Dance party.
SWINING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRAXX. Legendary Traxx Night hip-hop, 10 p.m. Male revue show, third floor, 12 a.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

SUN 03.07

ARMORY. Spiritual Vibe Dance Party, 6 p.m. Open at 12:30 a.m.
BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 12 a.m. Bill Berdeux, Rob Reum
BLAKE'S. Blake's Big Time drag review. 9 p.m.
BLU. Gospel Tea with DJ Brian Beck.
BUDDIES. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. Hip-hop gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Social night, open until midnight.
EAGLE. Open until midnight.
HOEDOWN'S. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
METRO. Open until midnight.
MODEL T. Café Zone 3 jazz show, 10 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Brunch, all you can eat gourmet buffet, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Red Chair Revue starring Bubba D. Licious, 9 p.m.



LE BUZZ

Despite an OTP location in conservative Cobb County, this show club and bar is one of the best nightspots in the metro for a full weekly nightlife calendar. The décor features polished hardwood floors, expansive patio seating and two full-service bars. The main bar is festooned with rainbow pride flags and big-screen TVs. The next-door "Oasis Room" features a stage for shows and a spacious dance floor. Altogether a cozy rest stop playing host to folks for the perfect after-work or late-night getaway. Le Buzz rewards a short trip north with atmosphere, entertainment and excellent service. Both young and old guys and girls mingle with drag queens and straight couples who venture in for a change of pace.
585 Franklin Rd., Marietta. 770-424-1337.

MON 03.08

BACKSTREET. Energy drag show with Monica Van Pelt, Heather Daniels, Lauren La Masters, and Martina Diamante, 3 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Bottomless well drinks, 10-11 p.m. Drag Races, 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool.
BUDDIES. Free pool until 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Music Trivia, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. LeGirlzz of LeBuzz drag show. Free pool.
METRO. "Pop Rocks" w/ DJ Mikey Nichols, a night of funk, new wave and rock at 10 p.m. Martini Madness. No Cover.
NICKIEMOTO'S. Dragamaki with Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and weekly guests. 8:45 p.m.
THE OSCARS ATLANTA. Service industry night.
TRAXX. Stars of the Century female illusion show, doors open 10:30 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3a.m.

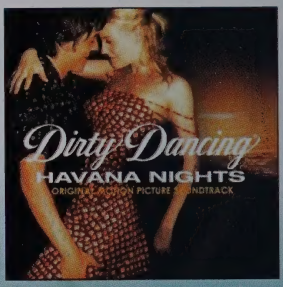
TUE 03.09

ARMORY. Drag show, 10:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m.
BLAKE'S. Twisted Tuesdays. 10 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool and game night, 8 p.m.
BUDDIES. Karaoke, 10 p.m..
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke with Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Oldies & Goodies night '70s and '80s hip-hop and R&B, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts, 7-10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
JOE'S ON JUNIPER. Trivia Challenge, 8-10 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke with Alexandria Martin.
MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
METRO. DJ Martin's Latin House, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
OSCARS ATLANTA. Showtune Tuesday.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRAXX. Thugged Out Tuesday Night hip-hop, doors open 11 p.m.

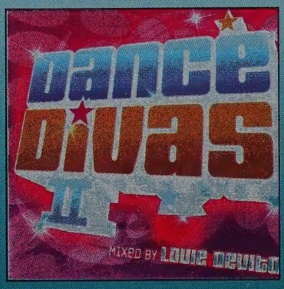
SELECTION AS DIVERSE AS OUR COMMUNITY

ani difranco
Educated Guess
BMI

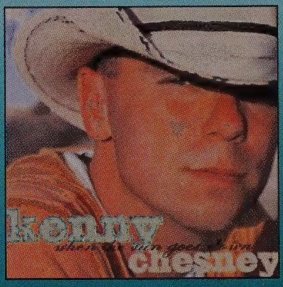
Original Cast Recording
The Boy from Oz
Decca Broadway



Motion Picture Soundtrack
Dirty Dancing - Havana Nights
J Records



Mixed by Louie DeVito
Dance Divas II
DeeVee Music

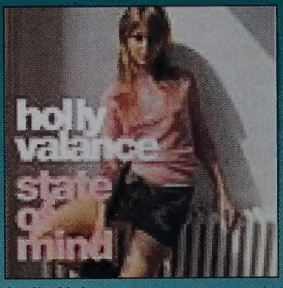


Kenny Chesney
When The Sun Goes Down
BMG

Mixed by Johnny Vicious
Ultra.Dance:3
Ultra Records

Harry Connick, Jr.
Only You
Columbia

Indigo Girls
All That We Let In
Epic



Holly Valance
State of Mind
London Records

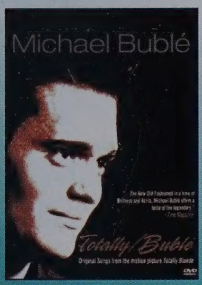
Original Cast Recording
Wicked - A New Musical
Decca Broadway

Hannah Jones
Hannah Jones - The Remixes
BMG

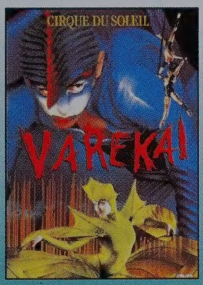
Emma
Free Me
Universal

BRUSHSTROKES

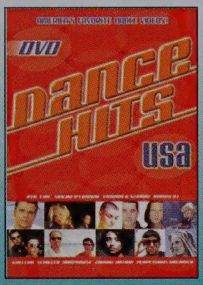
SENSORY OVERLOAD



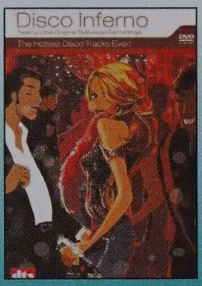
Michael Bublé
Totally Bublé
Koch Vision



Cirque du Soleil
Varekai
Sony Pictures

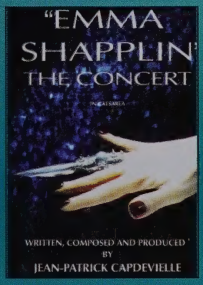


Various Artists
Dance Hits USA
Radikal Records

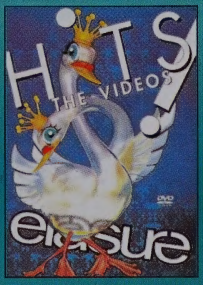


Various Artists
Disco Inferno
Classic Pictures

Ellen Degeneres
Here and Now
HBO Video

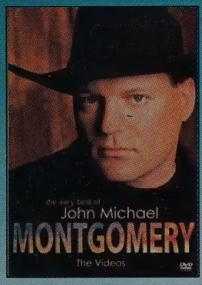


Emma Shapplin
The Concert
Pendragon



Erasure
Hits - The Videos
Sire

The Human League
The Very Best of
Virgin



John Michael Montgomery
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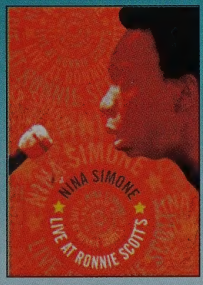

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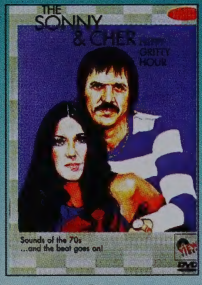

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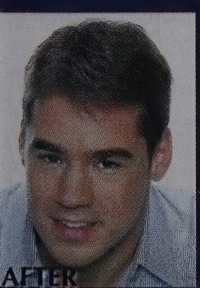

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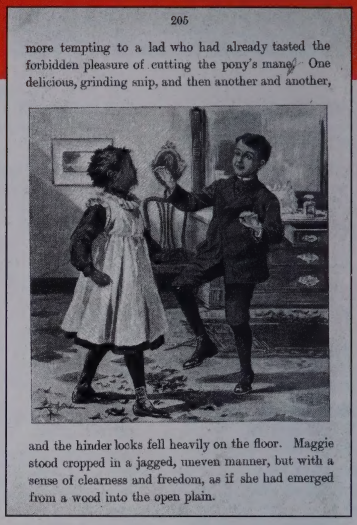
BY CHRISTOPHER STEVENS

BORED WITH DICK (and JANE)

What a difference a century makes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more tempting to a lad who had already tasted the forbidden pleasure of cutting the pony's mane. One delicious, grinding snip, and then another and another,

and the hinder locks fell heavily on the floor. Maggie stood cropped in a jagged, uneven manner, but with a sense of clearness and freedom, as if she had emerged from a wood into the open plain.

I WAS THRIFTING LAST WEEK — JUST FOR essentials. I'd just moved into a new apartment, but my things were still in storage. So I was sort of "camping in," with just a few clothes, an air mattress and a coffeepot.

But I needed a couple other supplies, hence the thrift trip. I found the lady behind the counter pricing antique books — elementary readers for different grades. She gave me a bargain price on them, and they have more than paid for themselves in entertainment value. They're from 1902, and I tell you — they just don't make 'em like this anymore.

Some of the stuff is simply dated and un-PC by modern standards. Obviously published for schools in a South still smarting from the War of Northern Aggression, the books make much of Confederate heroes and their deeds, and talk condescendingly of any minority.

Some of the stuff is weird and morbid. There's a poem about a little boy's toys waiting faithfully for him years after he's died in his sleep. There's a story about a boy who tortures and kills small animals, but learns his lesson on a trip to Beast Land, where the animals abuse *him* for a change, and he almost drowns before one of his victims saves him. Then he's sick for a long time, and when he's finally allowed to see the one pet he always liked, the pup expires in his arms from sheer joy. It's even illustrated with a fine engraving of a dead puppy. Cats are referred to by the generic proper name, "Pussy," so that one story is all about little Nat chasing Pussy through the woods.

And then there are the parts (again, it's the period, and not really what it sounds like now) that are just so darned *gay*. A young boy with a round, red face is named "Peony," as if it were the most normal thing in the world. "Arthur's First Night at Rugby" is about prayer in schools, but as it takes place at bedtime in an English boys' school dorm, I was busy quivering, and missed the moral lessons.

In "A Young Hero," several Union soldiers scare a young Southern boy into a faint by threatening to shoot him for information on a rebel camp. But it's just a ruse, and as another Yankee soldier gives him a ride home, we read, "*The boy did not realize that the big dragoon was looking down at the light hair resting on his arm, ... or that the pressure the boy felt from his strong arms was a caress given for the sake of another boy far away on the Brandywine. The soldier gently set him on his feet, and before he let him go, kissed him. 'I've got a curly-headed fellow at home, just the size of you,' he said softly.'*"

Of course the guy's talking about his son, but Lordy! Come back, you big dragoon, you! My Southern parts are still unconquered, and they're either saluting or rising in rebellion!

Odd, the changes a century makes. A father kissing his own son would raise eyebrows now; any other man kissing the boy would find himself in court. And any kid named "Peony" would have the snot beat out of him daily.

Somehow, as homosexuality began to be acknowledged, all this homo-*seeming* stuff disappeared, as with the original meanings of "gay" and "queer," alas. It would be nice if a man could be fond of a boy without being branded a pervert. It would be nice if kids could be themselves without being punished for it, and if we could say "gay" for "happy" and "queer" for "odd" without morons erupting in snickers.

But then, it would also be nice if a hardback textbook still cost 32 cents.

Christopher Stevens can usually be found at www.hedidwhat.com, but he can't pull himself away from "Little Friends in Fairyland" *by Edith M. Thomas.*

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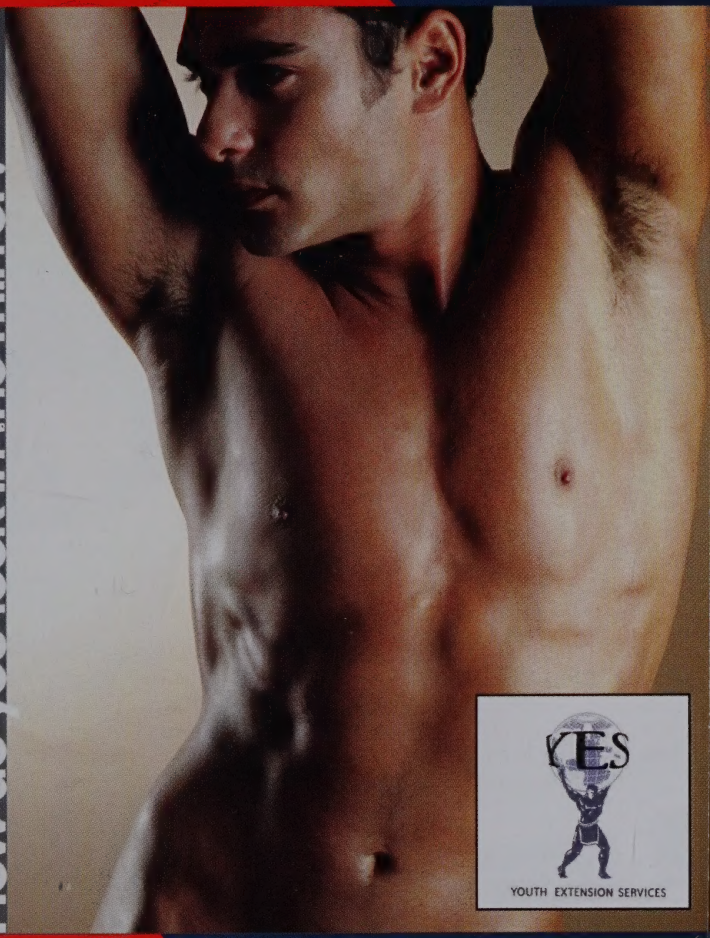

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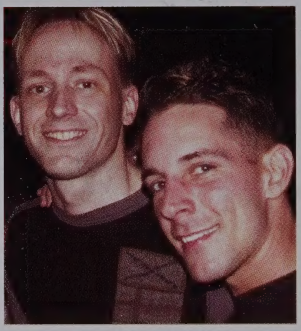

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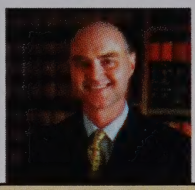

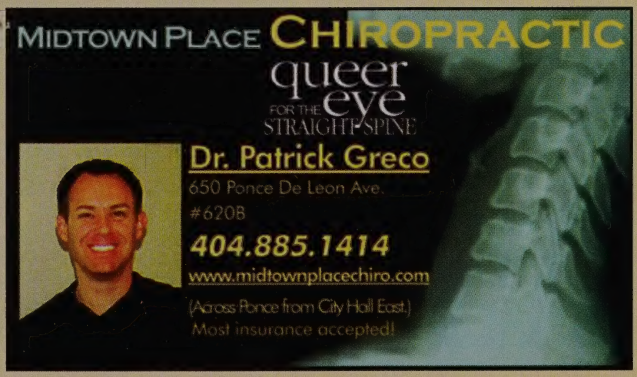

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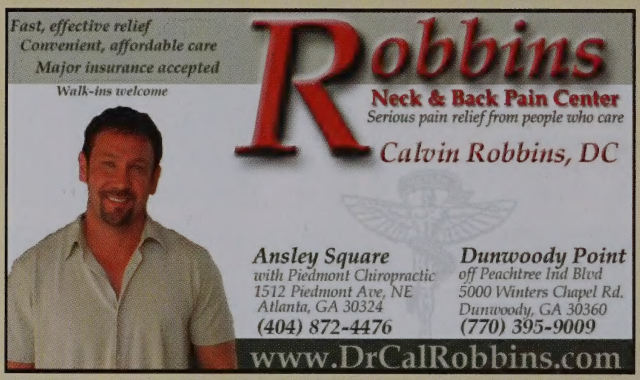

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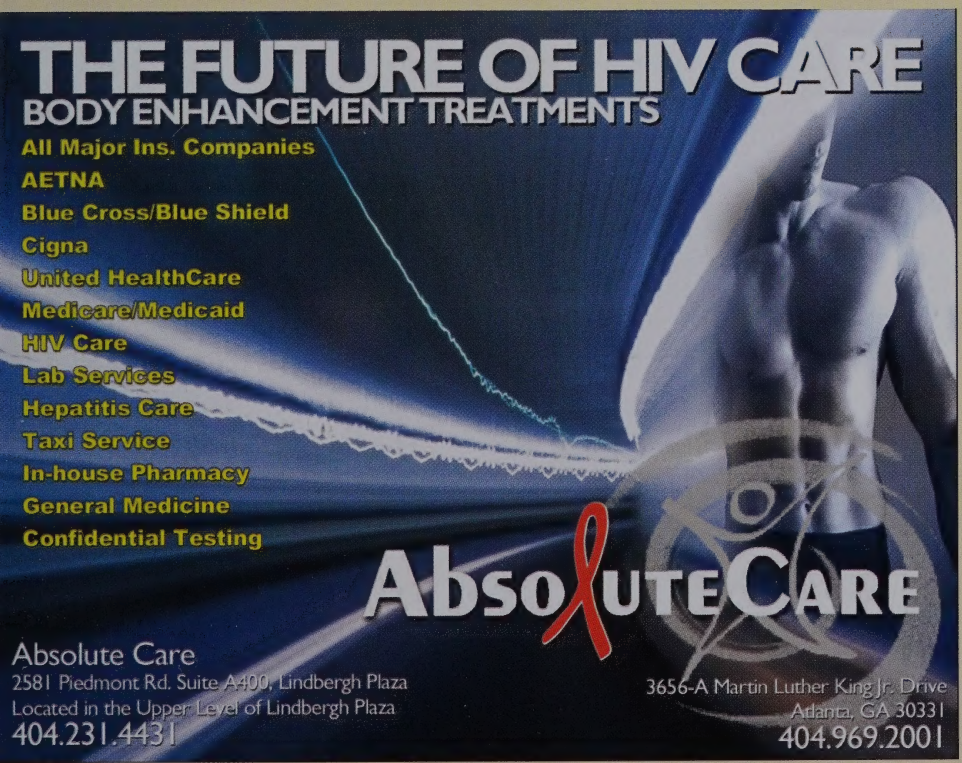

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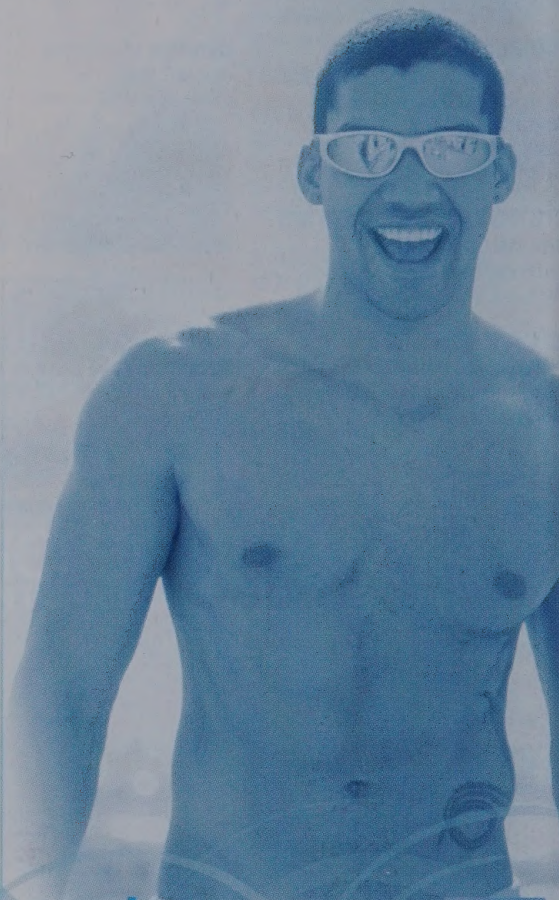

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BY WOODY MILLER

DAMMIT, JANET

Why the Super Bowl's breast shocker sends the wrong message

HEY WOODY!

What do you think of the fallout from Janet Jackson's fall out? I'm all for skin but Lord Jesus, I was watching the Super Bowl with my whole family, including kids. My five-year-old nephew jumped up and said, "What's that, mommy?" Why did CBS put my sister in such an awkward position? Don't you think the networks and the NFL should be punished?

— Conservative but hip

DEAR HIP:

No one has written anything funnier and more insightful about Janet Jackson's "I Have A Gleam" speech than my friend Marc Acito (www.marcacito.com). Here's what he wrote:

"Well, Super Bowl Sunday has long passed, but the memory of Janet Jackson's 'knocker shocker' lives on.

Personally, I'm not surprised Jackson exposed herself in front of children — her brother has been doing it for years. And, even though I don't aspire to pierce my nipple with a medieval apple corer, I do admire Ms. Jackson's audacity.

You see, there's something wrong with a country that expresses outrage at seeing a boob on the boob tube, but thinks nothing of watching 22 boobs pummel each other for hours on end. (Why is gratuitous violence OK, but not gratuitous sex?)

I believe there is a place for exposing the human body in public life, despite the opinion of Attorney Generalissimo John Ashcroft, who spent $8,000 of taxpayer money to cover up the wardrobe malfunction of an 18-foot statue. (Ironically, it's called "The Spirit of Justice.") I swear; John Ashcroft is so uptight he can't even look at a chicken breast.

As far as I can see, Janet's 'Nipplegate' is simply a tempest in a C-cup."

Yes, the bastard out-wooded me. Check out his upcoming book anyway: *How I Paid for College (A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship & Musical Theater).*

I have two objections about the whole saga:
1) The wrong person got stripped.
2) The wrong message got broadcast.

My primary objection to Janet Jackson's booby trap wasn't that she bared her breast. It's that it was bared for her. The real issue isn't nudity but harassment. Yes, it was all a staged stunt but the take-away remains: It's OK to sexually harass a woman but it's not OK for the victim to show the result of the harassment.

Consider the event: A man rips off a woman's clothes without her consent while menacingly boasting, "I'll have you naked by the end of this song."

I've got too many girlfriends who've been raped to take this lightly. I was watching the game with my niece and nephew. At five and nine years old I don't think they had the faculties to process what they saw but in my mind it was scary. The message to my nephew: "You have the right to be sexually violent to a woman who turns you on." The message to my niece: "Not much you can do about it, so just relax and enjoy it."

It's ridiculous enough that the FCC is spending taxpayer money to hold hearings on Breastgate. What's really absurd is that Janet Jackson seems to be the target. Fuck that. If anyone should be held to account it's Justin Timberlake. We are a nation of hypocritical prudes. We're shocked by the breast, but not by the violence that exposed it.

Personally, I don't think TV shows enough nudity on prime time. So what if kids see it? Kids from Europe, where nudity is fairly common in the mass media, are much better off than American kids. When they grow up, they're much likelier to have better sex, use condoms and avoid HIV. And they'll have a much lower incidence of rape.

Yes, I think Viacom, CBS, MTV and the NFL should be fined. But not for showing nudity; for promoting sexual harassment.

Woody is the author of Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon. *He can be reached at woody@menrpigs.com*

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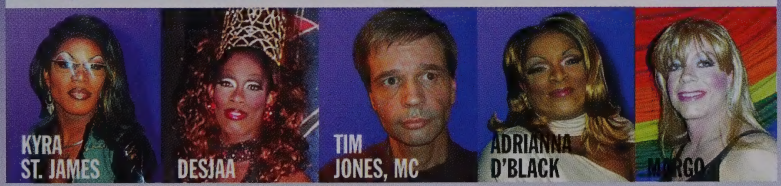

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THE CENTER

ATL's Gay and Lesbian Center is located at 170 11th Street. We provide information, support and services to the LGBTQ people of Atlanta. **404.874.9890.**

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THE ZACCHAEUS SOCIETY

OUT In The Country ... meets every second Saturday of the month at a covered dish starting at 5:00 PM. The Society provides confidential outreach and social setting to the gay, lesbian, transgendered, and straight citizens of Rockdale and Newton counties. For membership and meeting information: 770.520.3700 or email: Z@outinthecountry.org.

ATLANTA EXECUTIVE NETWORK

Atlanta's largest networking organization for gay and lesbian professionals and businesses. 1447 P'tree St. #300, Atlanta, Georgia 30309 **404.724.9008**.

GUYS TALKING TO GUYS

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AIDS 101 AWARENESS & ACTION SEMINAR

For details and registration call **404.870.7742**, e-mail aids101@aidatlanta.org, or visit AID Atlanta's Web site at www.aidatlanta.org.

"TRICKS" GAY BRIDGE CLUB

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AA & AL-ANON

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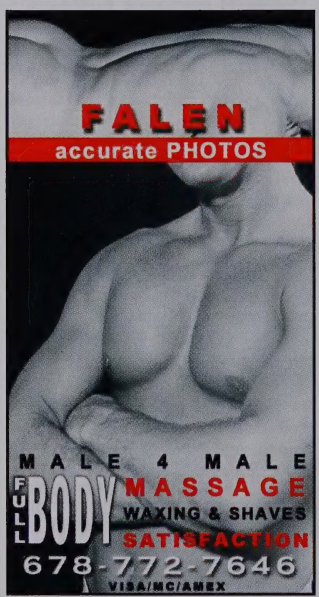

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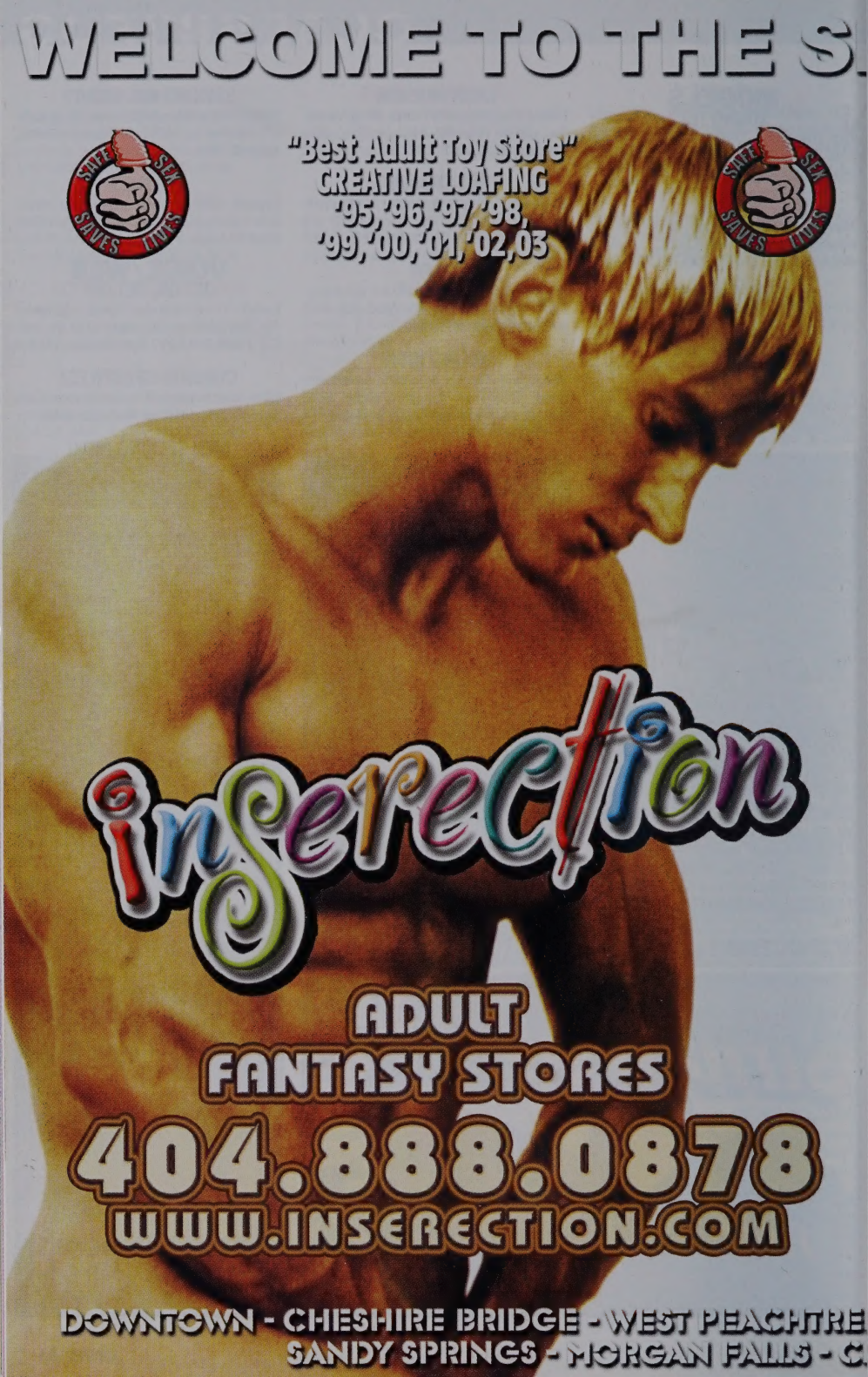
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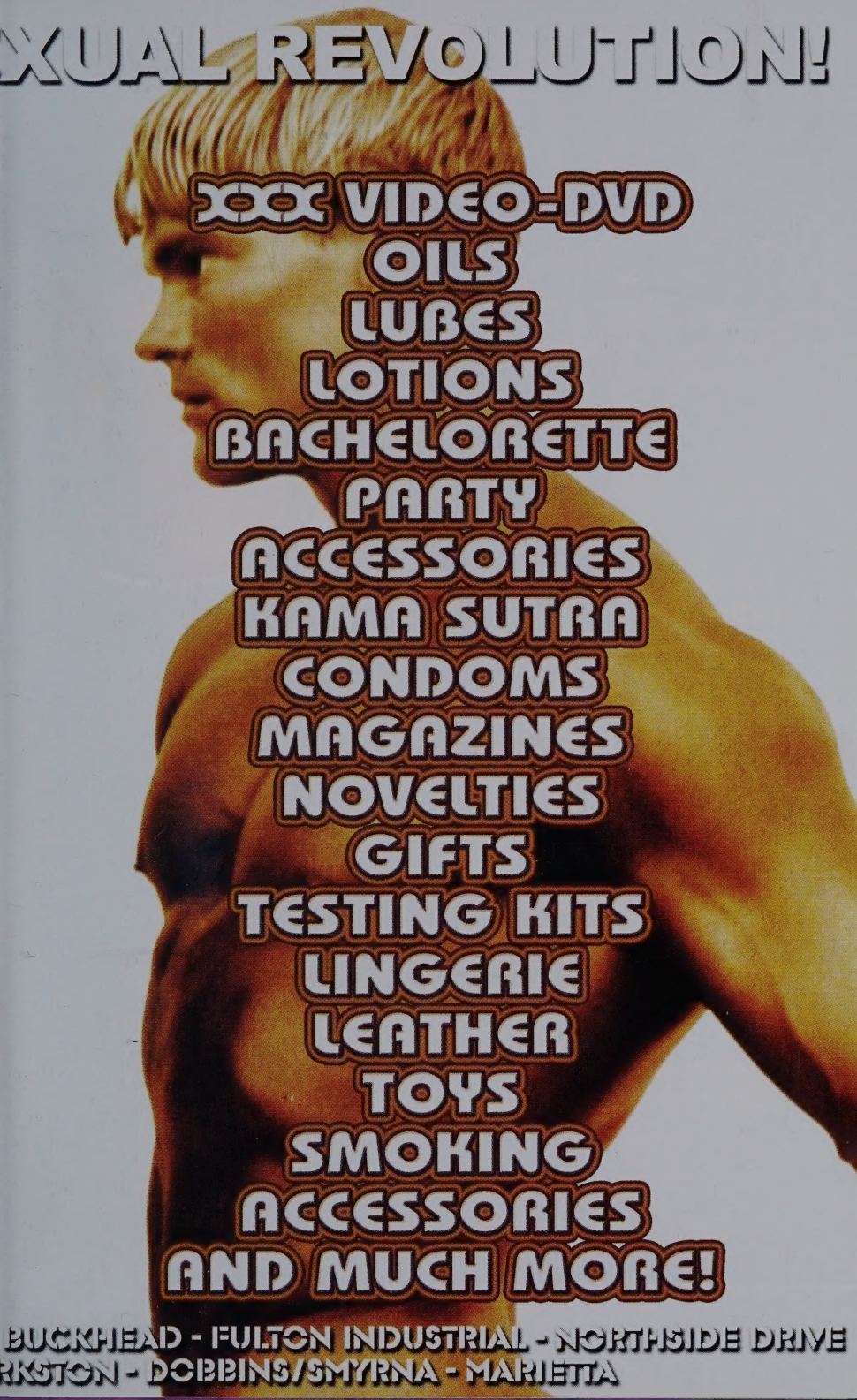
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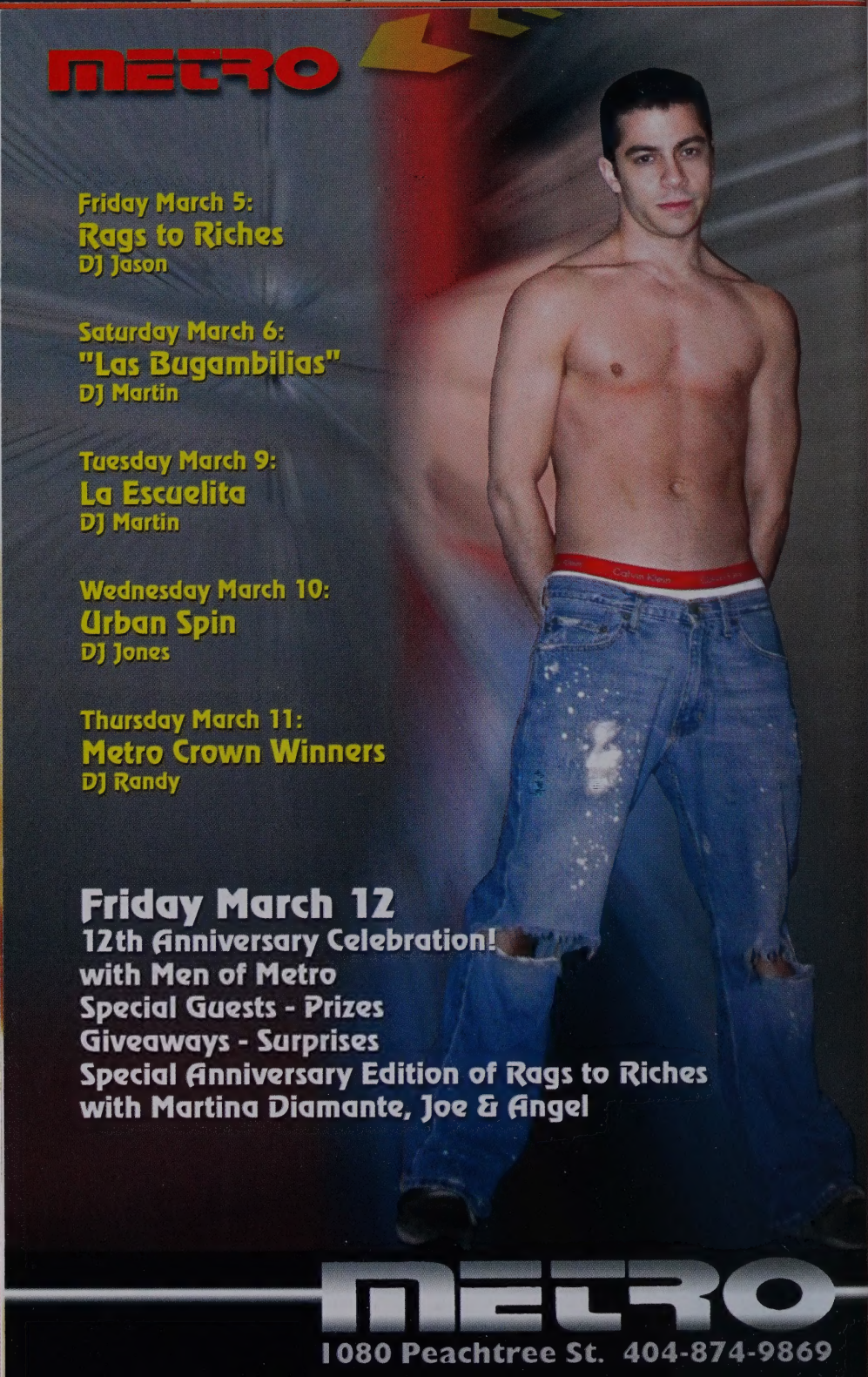
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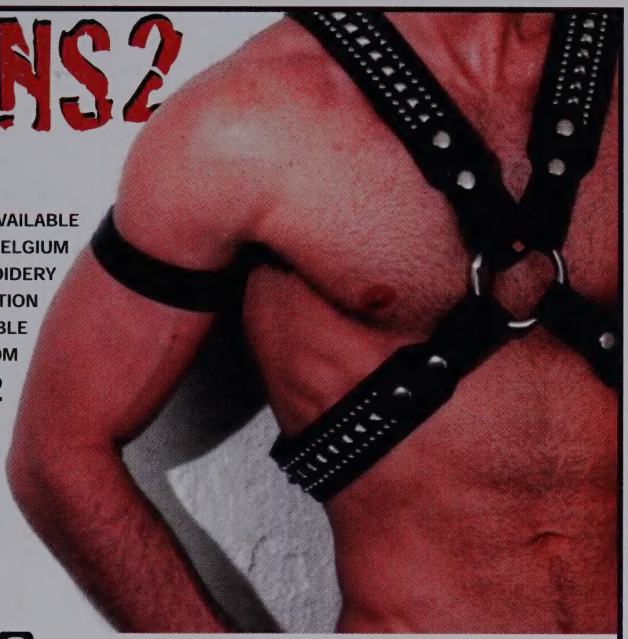

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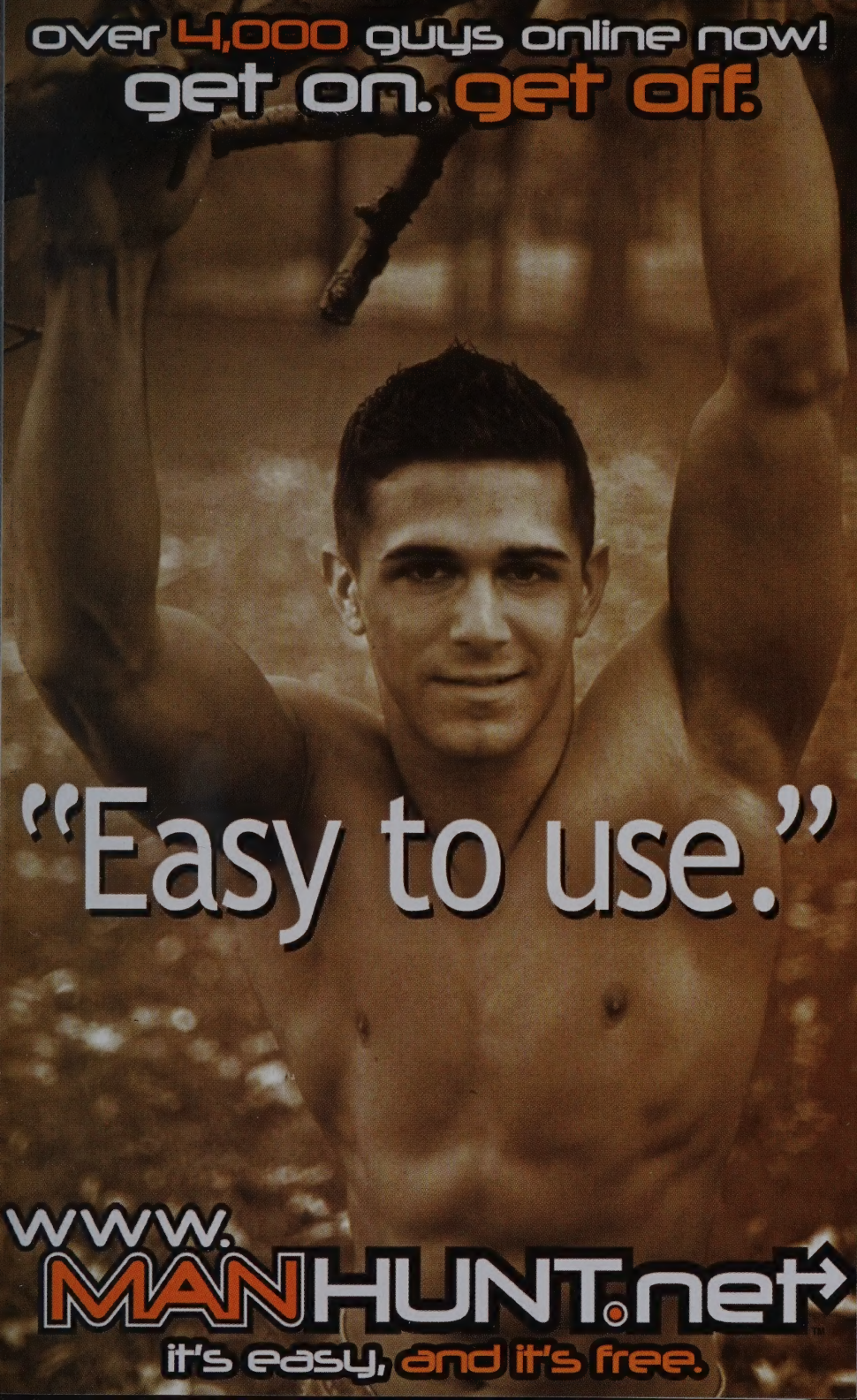
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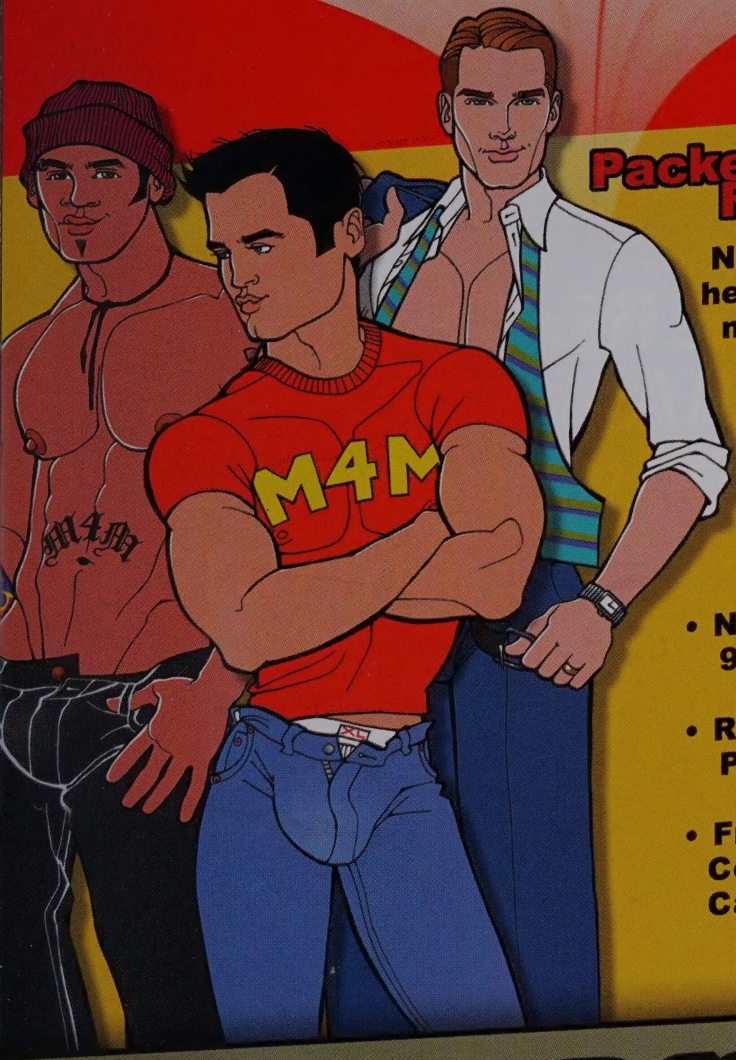

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To the religious freak: I am atheist, so what is a bible? I didn't see anything in Webster's about how being gay is wrong.

To the guy complaining about the abundance of trolls and the lack of scenery at the gym showers: The trolls are there when you're there because they're a permanent fixture and scared all the good-looking guys away a long time ago.

Why is it that stupid, no talent Britney Spears can get married on a drunken whim, but a gay or lesbian couple who really love each another can't?

You walk around my high-rise in your mcnasty grundies like you are some kind of joey. Bois, clean those things and comply with the rule of my manor. My terror warning level is about to rise to fuchsia pink!

Why do queens at baths have to listen to their walkmans and talk on their cell phones when their doors are open?

A husband is a man and a wife is a woman. Stop embarrassing yourself by calling yourself and your boyfriend your "husband" or your "wife."

In the interest of preserving the sanctity of marriage, I'm proposing a constitutional amendment making it illegal for pop stars to marry.

Let's all make resolutions to send out a little more love and less drama. Drama doesn't make anyone interesting.

It's time for the bears to realize that being a fairy does not make you any less of a man.

To a certain bitch now in graduate school: Why are you afraid of a little plaything on the side? After all I am the married one.

To the anti-Log Cabin moron: If Bush does support a marriage amendment, Log Cabin won't support him. Log Cabin has a better chance of convincing Bush on our issues than any other group, so why not support us instead of bash us?

To the fellow who wrote in complaining about precious space being devoted to mean-spirited rants: I remind him of the First Amendment, and a column by Bitch Boy would be great, but I think he does a great job just responding where he sees fit.
Bitch Boy responds: I second that emotion.

Maturity, accountability and respect for others (and oneself) are in short supply in our "community." While our heterosexual counterparts are raising families, you pathetic people are out keeping the illegal drug market in business, not to mention an army of infectious disease specialists.

If the guy who turns his back in the shower did not turn his back, you'd complain that he's showing off. What do you want him to do? Wear his clothes in there?

It wouldn't hurt to smile when you see "family" out and about. Just smile!

Why yes, there is an empty locker in this aisle. Never mind the other 12 guys stumbling over each other here already. The more the merrier.

You know you're doing too much Tina when you start to look like Gollum, my preciousss.

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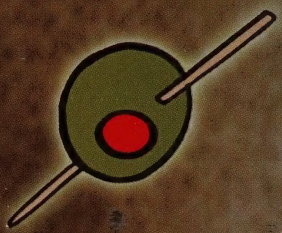

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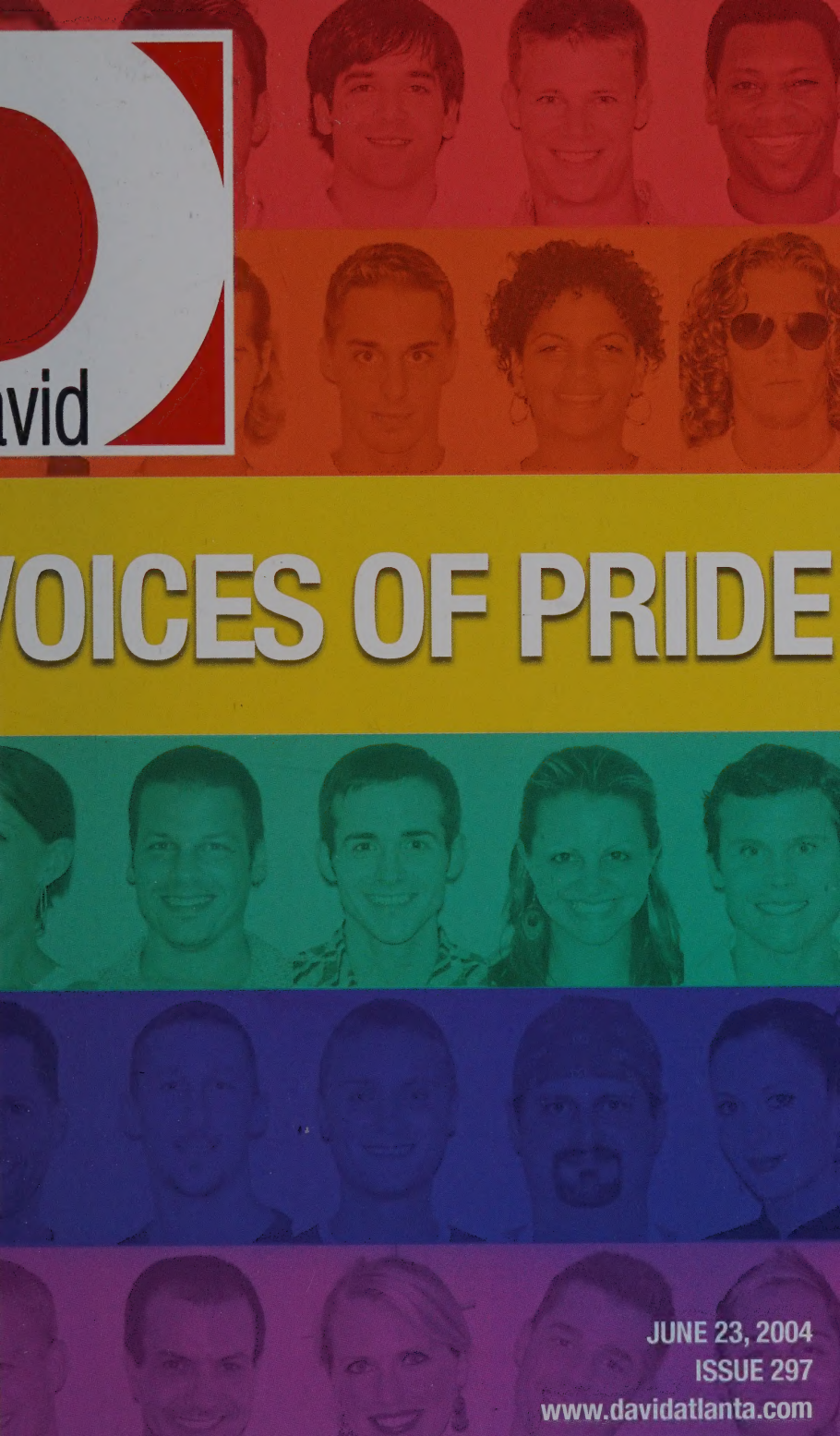

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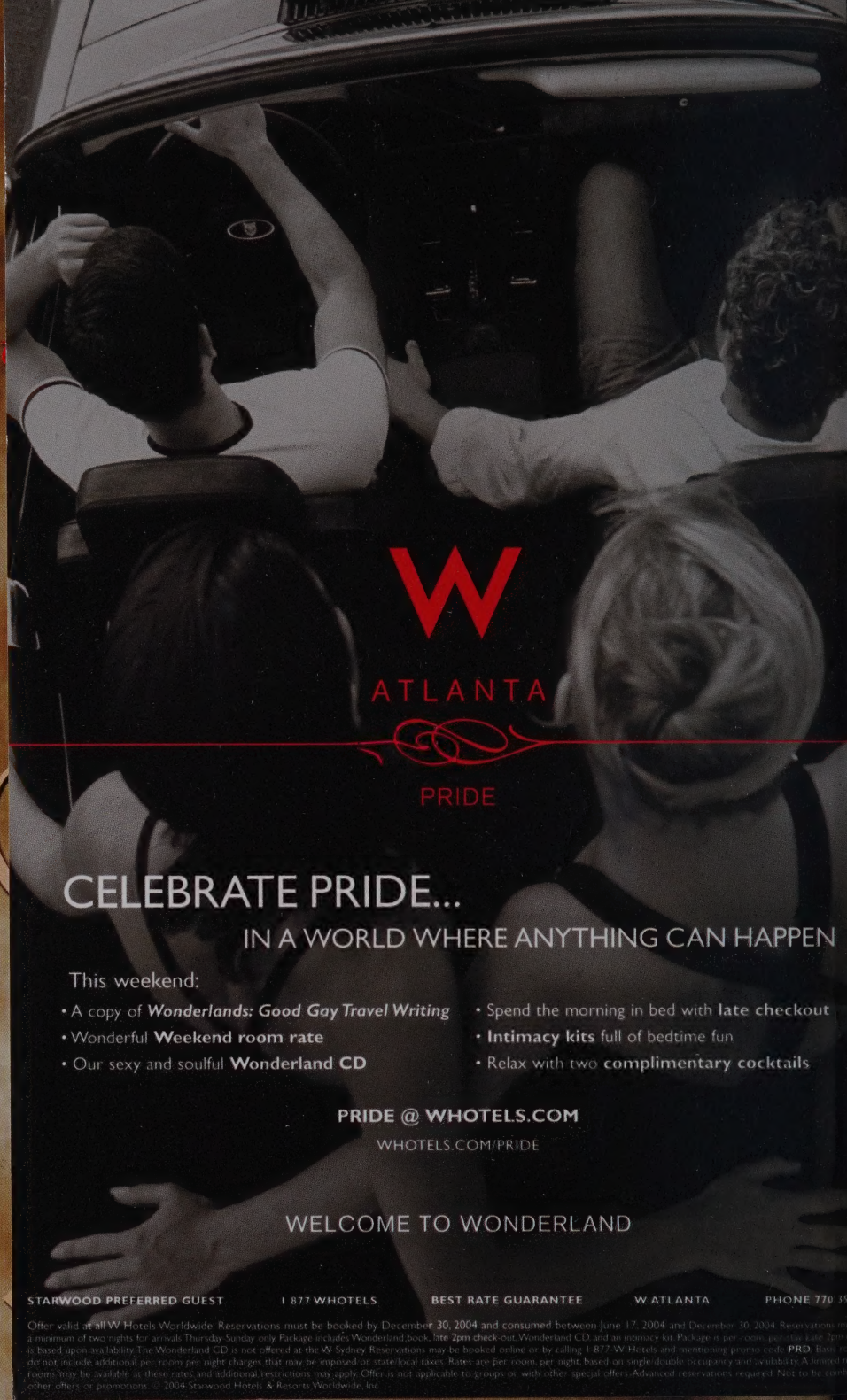
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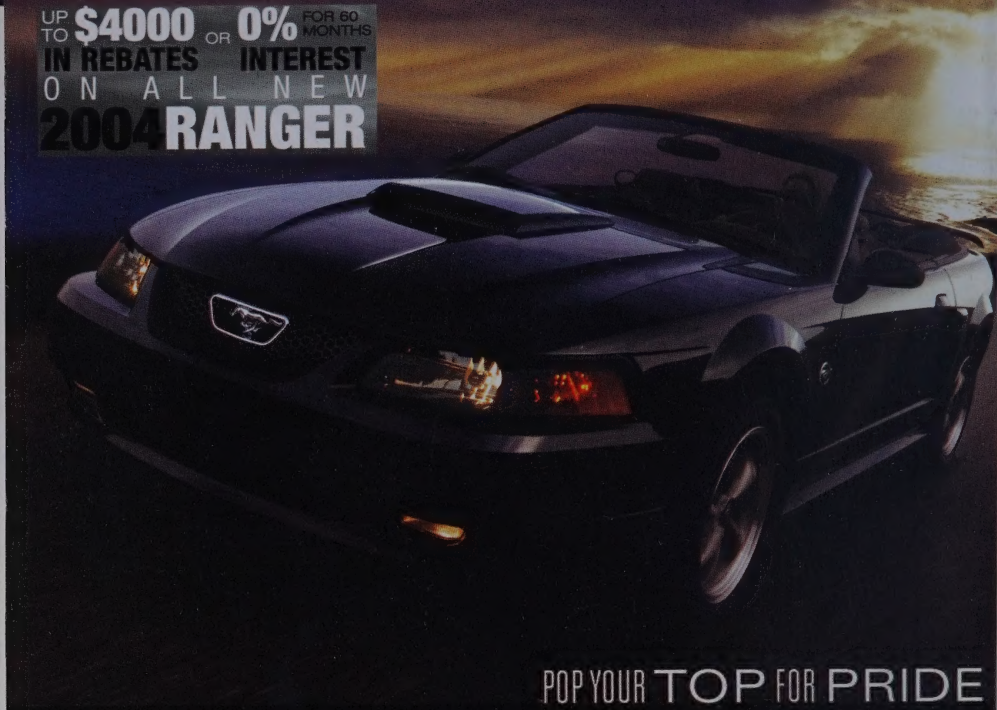

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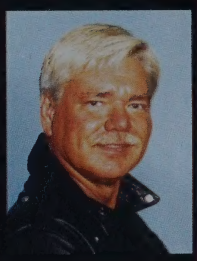

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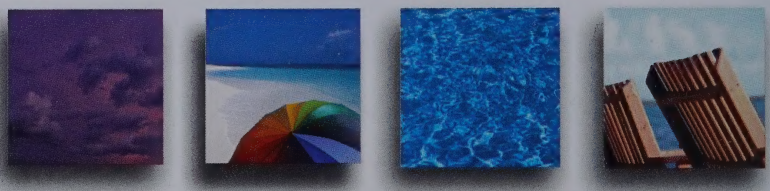

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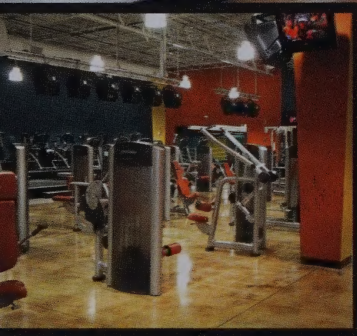

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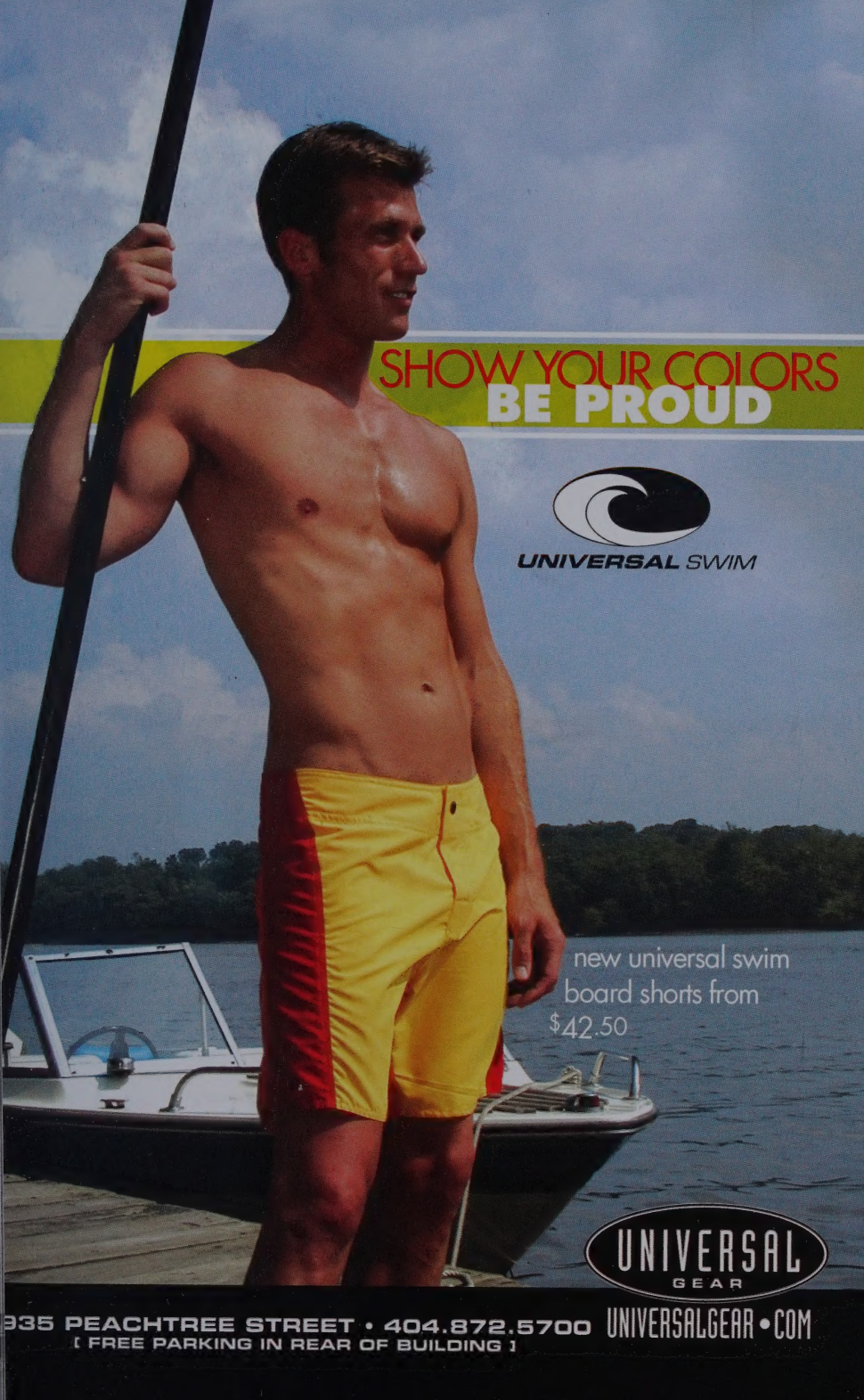
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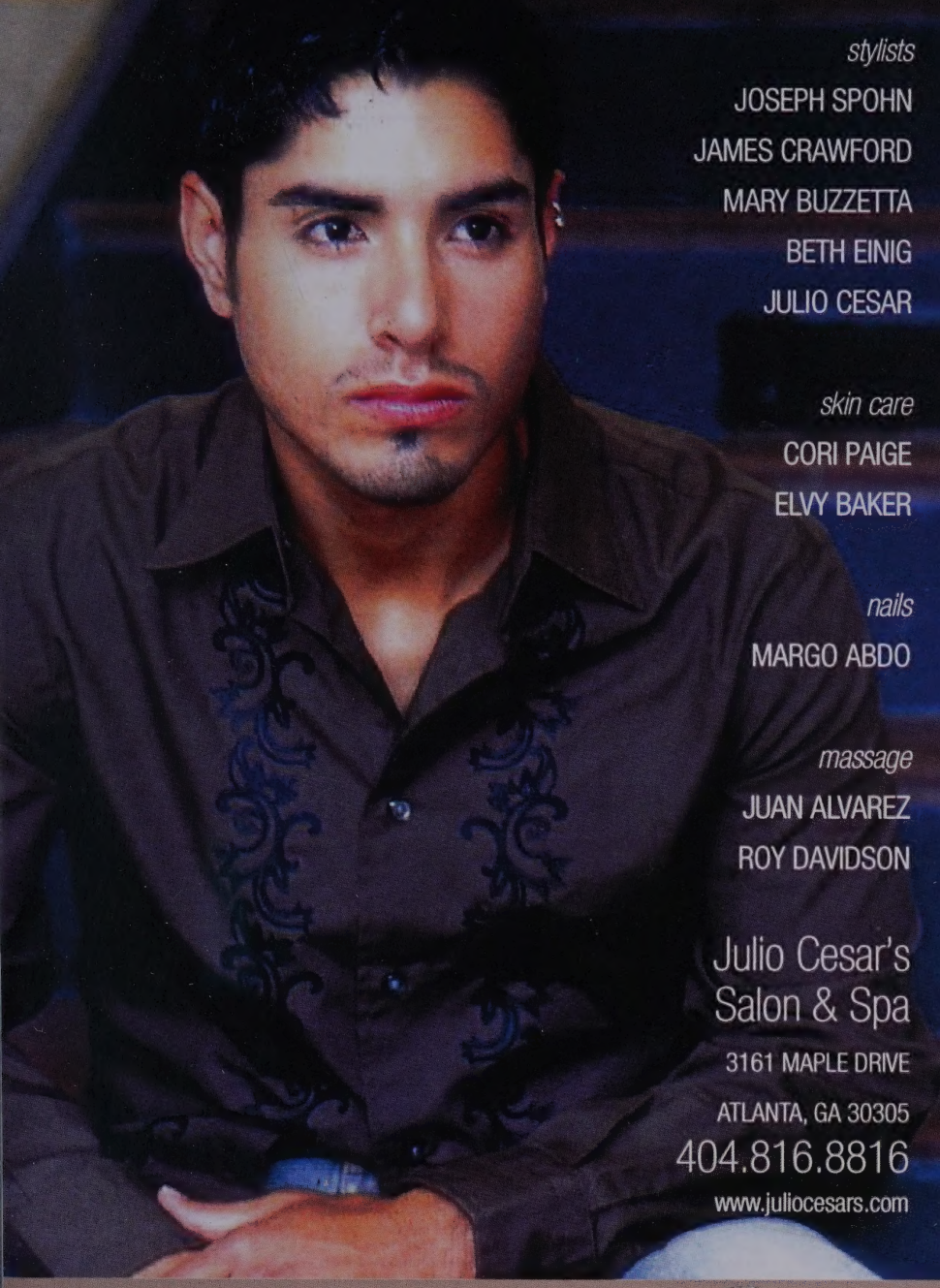

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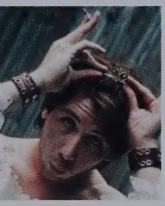

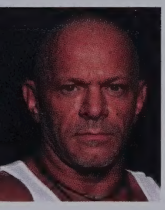

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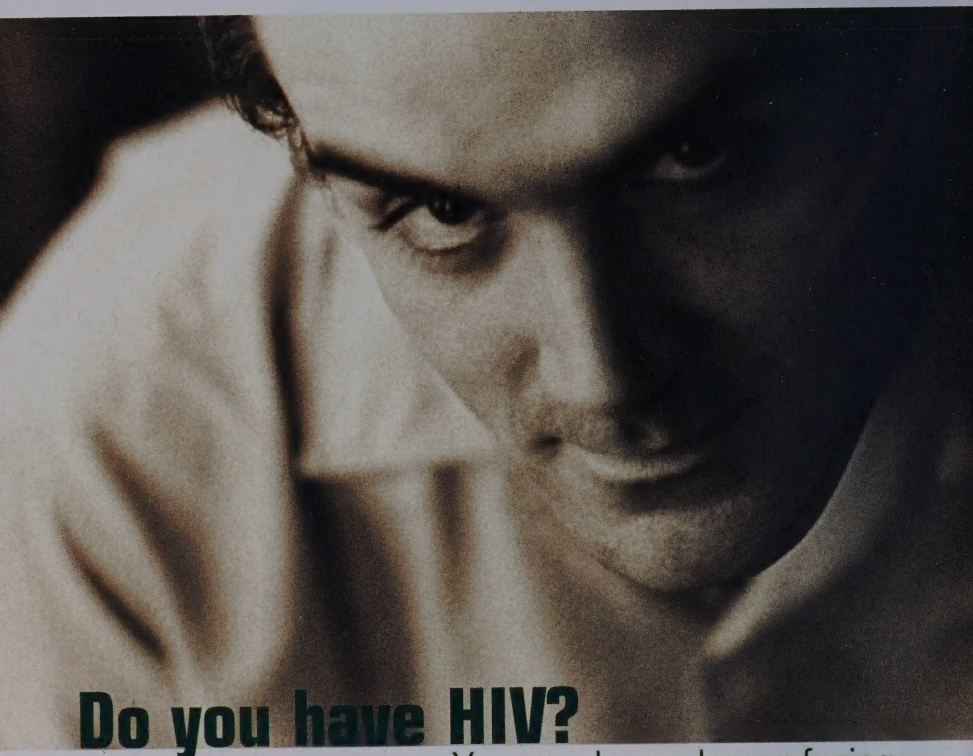

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I SAT DOWN TONIGHT IN SEARCH of Atlanta Pride.

Not the festival, but mainly I was in search of myself — digging through old journal entries and photos, trying to figure out what I was doing on a certain weekend in June for the past decade.

This is my 10th year taking part in Atlanta's big gay weekend. I haven't missed it since my sophomore year at UGA, when I drove down and watched the parade in front of the Midtown firehouse. I spent the afternoon flirting with the cute, blonde guy next to me, but lost him in the crowd once the parade ended. I remember being overwhelmed by the sheer number of gay people.

Every Pride has that, the defining moment that sticks in my brain. One year it was seeing the B-52's in Piedmont Park. Another, it was hearing Pepper Mashay belt her ridiculous anthem, "I Got My Pride," at Philips Arena.

This year I honestly thought I was over the rainbow (pun intended, Dorothy), vaguely dissatisfied but mostly ambivalent. Then something clicked, and I've been oddly ecstatic thinking about Pride's arrival, giddy as a sophomore again.

The first song I heard this morning was Heather Small's "Proud" (a real anthem for the weekend, Pepper Mashay be damned). It asks: "What have you done today to make you feel proud?" and I literally got goose bumps.

Maybe the self I'm trying to find can't be spotted in photographs or old journals. Perhaps it's in the defining moments like that one, when all seems right in the world and you feel simply thrilled to be alive. I haven't thought of it before now, but maybe that basic and shameless joy in the journey is actually what Pride is all about.

For *David's* 2004 Pride issue (our biggest ever), we set out to give readers something more substantive than just a sea of calendars listings. We asked a handful of writers to contribute short essays on Pride, leaving the topic largely open for their interpretation. What emerges is a mixed — and surprisingly positive — round-up of opinions. Casey Jordan writes about being gay in the era of George W., suggesting we view Pride as a big family reunion. Neil James comes clean about his addiction — to wearing outrageous costumes in the parade.

Erin and I joke that year after year, it's as if the Pride planners just reach into a big grab bag of PC terms and pull out some words: "Ah, equality … equals … justice. Eureka!"

In the years that followed I've sometimes worried that I also got lost in that tangled crowd of gays. Today I feel as if I've traveled the full spectrum of the rainbow flag. Yellow for the scared Christian boy inching out of the closet. Green for the newbie trying to find my gay family. Blue for the sad single guy tired of the cruising game. Red for my hot-headed Post-Gay phase, angry at the whole sordid scene. Purple for the soul-happiness I felt spending Pride with my best friends.

And over the years I've become increasingly conflicted about Pride. The theme of this year's festival — "Equality equals justice" — just feels empty and misleading. Erin and I joke that year after year, it's as if the Pride planners just reach into a big grab bag of PC terms and pull out some words: "Ah, equality … equals … justice. Eureka!"

Another friend calls it Pride Committee Magnetic Poetry: Mix and match words at will.

I'm still upset by how commercial Pride's become, and every year I feel like I'm being force-fucked by a handful of market-savvy corporate interests. (I would say "force fucked *without lube*," but we all know the bounty of free lube is one of the biggest perks of the weekend.)

The most incendiary essay comes from Christopher Brandon, who argues that it's time gay men and lesbians go their separate ways for Pride. (Hold your hate mail, ladies: He's joking … I think.) And Lucas Miré, a former critic of Pride's vapidness, admits his views have changed over the years.

We also offer ample coverage of the weekend's events, with a guide to the festival's entertainment and a party planner. Also, don't miss our new feature, Tops & Bottoms, a slanted take on what's noteworthy and *not* worthy about the weekend.

Have a happy Pride, folks. Be safe, be good, and be proud.

Tray Butler
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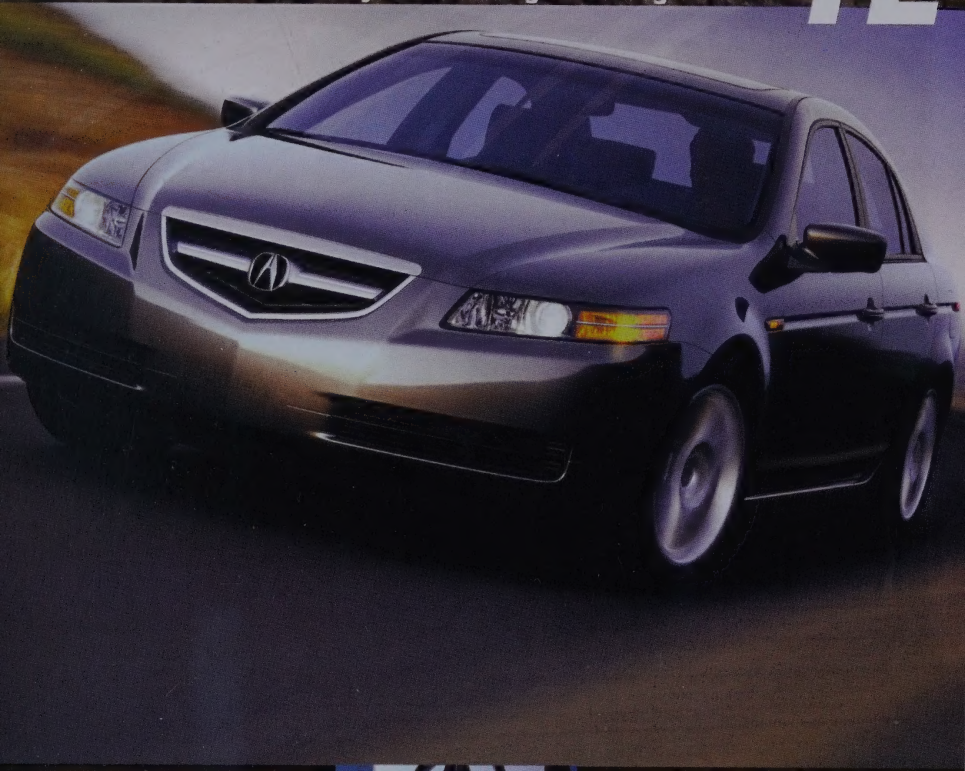

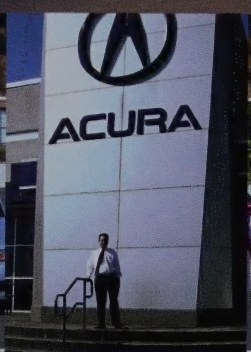

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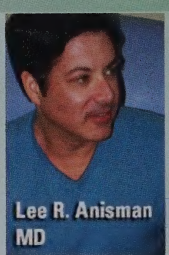
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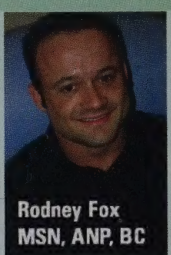
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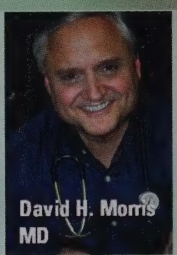
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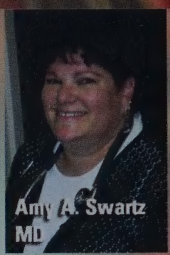
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Pride is here, at last. In celebration of the blessed event, *David* offers a biased look at the best — and worst — of the GayTL during this, the queerest weekend of the year.

TOPS & BOTTOMS

THIS WEEK'S LOOK AT WHAT'S HOT, WHAT'S NOT AND WHAT NEVER WAS

SORRY, SPOT

FOUR THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME DURING PRIDE

1. PETS. A new city ordinance bans pets in Piedmont Park during festivals. Who cares if you call your Dachshunds your "gay children?"

2. GRILLS. Girl, we're too busy to cook your hot dogs anyway.

3. ROLLERBLADES. Sorry, you'll just have to cruise ground-level with the rest of the crowd.

4. SPANDEX. You know who you are.

AND ALL THAT ... JAZZ?

MOST BIZARRE FORMAT CHANGE AT A LOCAL BAR

We couldn't believe our ears when we heard the news: On Friday, June 25, WETbar ditches its usual circuit sounds and launches the Rooftop Jazz series, with a live band playing on the upstairs patio.

We're curious to see how the bar's clientele warms up to the change, especially during bustling Pride weekend. Nothing like a little Coltraine to get you warmed up for a long night of dancing.

THREE OFF-THE-BEATEN PATH PRIDE EVENTS WORTH CHECKING OUT

1. PRIDE PROM. You know you took your favorite fag hag in high school; now's your chance to do it right. This "first annual" event transforms Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park into a high-school gym for a night, or something like that. Benefits YouthPride and ZAMI's Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund. *Fri., June 25. 8 p.m.-midnight. Youth tickets (ages 13-24) $20; adult tickets $35. Available at YouthPride, ZAMI, Charis Books and More, Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, and online at www.zami.org.*

2. THE COMMITMENT CEREMONY (right). So maybe you haven't met Mr. or Ms. Right yet, but given this year's heated debate over same-sex nuptials, we're betting this Friday night tradition gets a lot busier than normal. And where better to find husband material — so long as he's only there to watch. *Fri, June 25, 8 p.m. Sheraton Colony Square.*

3. WORK HARD. A new Thursday night concept kicks off during Pride week at the Mark, one of our favorite (mostly) straight watering holes. If nothing else, it's a good excuse to show out-of-towners Atlanta's oft-forgotten downtown. *Thurs., June 24. The Mark Ultralounge, 79 Poplar St. 9 p.m. 678-904-0050, www.themarkatlanta.com.*

DJ DERRICK SHAW'S TOP 10 TRACKS FOR PRIDE

1. "I'm Ready" Cherie
2. "Just the Music" Jody Lei
3. "All Nite" Janet Jackson
4. "Cha Cha Heels" Rosabel
5. "Heartattack" Jahkey B. featuring Satta
6. "Luv 2 Luv" Suzanne Palmer
7. "Took My Life" Vernessa Mitchell
8. "Love Comes Again" Tiesto featuring BT
9. "Blood" Casey Stratton
10. "My Life" Jason

Derrick Shaw appears Friday and Saturday nights at Jungle and Sundays at Red Chair.

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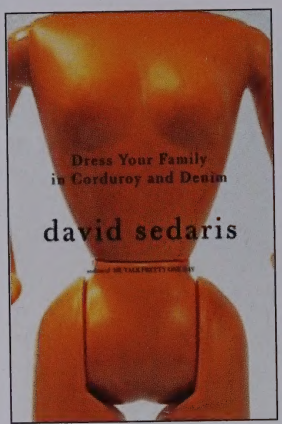
ME TALK PRETTY (AGAIN)

David Sedaris serves up more funny — if familiar — essays in a new book



IF I WERE DRINKING COSMOS with David Sedaris, I'd ask him, "David, which is harder, writing your first bestseller, or writing your third, fourth, fifth?" He'd most likely smile, shake his head and reply, "That's a stupid question."

With the release of *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim* (Little, Brown and Co.) Sedaris undoubtedly has another bestseller on his hands, but how easy was it living up to the reverent expectations of his rabid fan base, a bizarre cross section of erudite NPR listeners and gay men who mostly don't know what "erudite" means?

Corduroy and Denim occasionally treats the reader to his familiar, hilarious routine. In "Blood Work," while Sedaris cleans an apartment, the chubby owner, Martin, furiously masturbates on the sofa, both men too passive to ask why the other is cleaning or jacking-off.

But for the most part, the book treads a more introspective path. Sedaris turns away from his witty recounts of almost-too-hard-to-believe interactions with strangers, instead focusing on the day-to-day repartee with the absurd people he grew up with, his family. And Lord, who isn't crazier than your own family?

Well, maybe the Sedaris clan. From his alcoholic mother, his well intentioned father who continually promises niceties outside the family budget, to his brother Paul and sister Tiffany, who both at times eat frozen poultry from the garbage, the Sedaris family proves that the funniest, and most poignant, moments happen in our everyday routines. And most of the time they are neither really funny nor poignant, and yet that's why they are.

The stories are presented in chronological order, following his life from rural North Carolina, through New York City and into Paris, where he currently lives with his partner, Hugh.

Every gay man who suffered through the ordeal of the first sleepover at another boy's house will find knowing laughs in "Full House," where after enduring the time-honored tittie twister, young Sedaris reinvents the rules of strip poker, ultimately winning and relishing every moment.

"His legs were meaty and satisfying to look at," he writes. "He crossed the room, and I ate him alive with my eyes, confident that no one would accuse me of staring."

We've all been there and that's the power of Sedaris' on-the-spot observations. He's able to capture that precise moment where the mood of a situation shifts from normal to absurd without forcing the absurdity of it on his readers.

As the stories continue, the focus moves beyond his parents and pulls closer to his siblings. Relating to your siblings as adults is often a more shocking undertaking than knowing them as kids, which is acutely portrayed in "Put a Lid On It," when Sedaris shares an awkward visit with sister Tiffany. Forgotten by the family while in reform school, she struggles unemployed as a professional trash scrounger.

In "Possessions," on a visit to Amsterdam, the author scrutinizes the Anne Frank House through the eyes of a real estate maven, knocking down walls and finding focal points for entertaining and writing. He changes his mind and looks out the window, briefly catching his reflection before seeing a more beautiful apartment across the street.

Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim is a great collection that offers a brief reflection of yourself in each story. Luckily, there's always another beautiful essay waiting to be explored. ■

David Sedaris appears June 28 at 1 p.m. at Chapter 11 Discount Books, Ansley Mall, 544 Piedmont Ave. 404-872-7986, www.chapter11books.com.
He also appears June 28 at 7:35 p.m. at Borders Buckhead, 3637 Peachtree Rd. 404-237-0707

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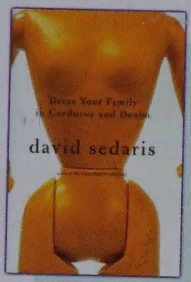

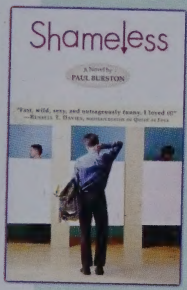

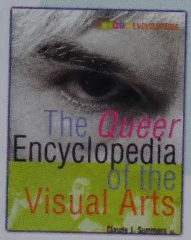

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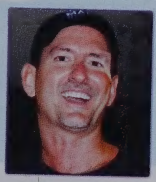

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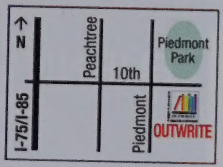

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JUNIOR SENIOR

DJ Junior Vasquez creates an unlikely diva with *Anthem 2*

When Junior Vasquez was forced to leave New York's Sound Factory after it closed down in January, rumors were flaring that the granddaddy of house might decide to leave the club scene completely. After more than two decades behind the turntables, it was perhaps time for Vasquez to pack his bags, move to Ft. Lauderdale and enjoy retirement.

In a 2001 interview, he voiced his frustration about the ever-changing Manhattan nightlife scene. The overbearing city legislation was a thorn in his side that made it increasingly difficult for him to play and have fun.

His Sound Factory exit might have been a blessing for Vasquez. Yes, he did lose a prestigious residency, but it was a perfect way to work on alternative music projects.

He's continued making remixes for both established and new artists. He's back with a weekly residency at New York's Discotechque. Most recently, his remix of Jason Walker's "My Life" hit the Billboard Dance Top Ten.

This month, he releases the double disc set Anthem 2 on his independent Junior Vasquez Music (JVM) label. The album includes new remixes of club favorites from Kristine W, Vivian Green and Deborah Cox.

Highlights are the remixed tracks "Blood" and "House of Jupiter" of pop crooner Casey Stratton. You would never think Stratton's piano-driven tunes would make great dance anthems, but Vasquez shows that everything is possible. He cut and pasted the singer's vocals, inserted a thicker baseline and threw in some extra percussion to turn the modest Stratton into a fierce circuit diva.

The CD doesn't feature any of the "pots 'n' pans" house that is often part of Vasquez' gigs. Instead, Vasquez adds his own twist to the original tracks with butter smooth baselines, subdued climaxes and atmospheric vocals that keep the essence of the song intact.

Anthem 2 turns out to be a satisfying remix effort that will likely please most of Vasquez' fans. The DJ still has longevity and easily weathers the tribal house trend that is currently ruling the circuit.

QUEER DETOUR

Another compilation dropping this month is the soundtrack of the fourth season of Showtime's "Queer As Folk." Music has always been a key element of the popular series that depicts the high and lows of a group of gay friends.

The fourth season in particular was one of many lows. Producer Rosie Lopez has come up with a blend of adult contemporary music that conveys the show's dramatic moments.

The record has an alt rock slant with tracks like "Attitude" from British brand Suede, "Scream" by Ima Robot and the gorgeous "You Are My Joy" by Reindoor Section.

Gutsy additions are some of the electronica-infused, alternative pop tracks such as the wild electro-clash from The Uncut on "Understanding The New Violence" and the trip-hoppy "Satellite" from TV On The Radio.

Synth pop group Goldfrapp finally gets their moment in the American spotlight with "Train."

As opposed to the Future Babylon dance parties, this "Queer As Folk" musical spin off is anything but a club record. Only two dance tracks are included on the album: the mandatory "Cue the Pulse to Begin (QAF Theme)" from Burnside and the low-key house track "Sanctuary" from Origene.

The soundtrack's producers have succeeded to compile a soundtrack that reflects some of the most dramatic and intense moments of the show. In the process, they've uncovered some great indie gems that are a worthy listen. ■

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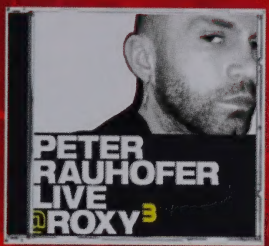

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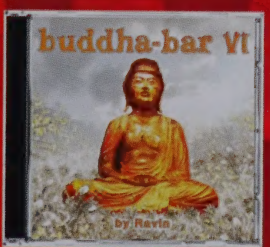

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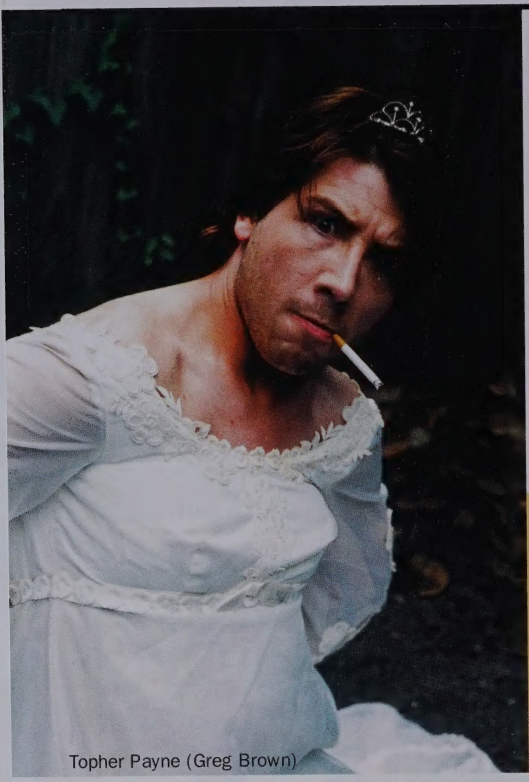

Topher Payne (Greg Brown)

NO PAYNE, NO GAIN

Theater dervish Topher Payne discusses his latest stage creation, the challenges of comedy and Joan Crawford worship

VITAL STATS
NAME: Topher Payne
AGE: 24
RELATIONSHIP STATUS: Coupled with boyfriend, Josh, for five years
WHERE HE'LL BE NEXT: Playing Rita Mae in the Onstage Atlanta's production of *Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait and Tackle*. June 25-July 17. 2597 North Decatur Rd., Decatur $15. 404-897-1802. www.onstageatlanta.com
Online: www.topherpayne.com

TOPHER PAYNE HAS DONE MORE in his early 20s than most people twice his age. This Renaissance man lists actor, playwright, author and coffee-slinger among his many credits. We caught up with Payne between rehearsals for his latest role in *Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait and Tackle*, writing a musical, launching a play in New York, penning a book and hawking at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse.

***David:* So, what brought you to Atlanta?**

Topher Payne: I was born in Mississippi and went to school in Connecticut and California. Later, I toured with a children's theater production of a puppet show. I was supposed to be in Atlanta for 10 months. That was five years ago. This is the longest in one place since I was 12 and Atlanta is a great place to call home.

When did the acting bug first bite?

I was doing church plays when I was 4. My first role was a sparrow, I had one line and I forgot it. I auditioned for *The Client* (the 1994 film role went to Brad Renfro) when I was 12 or 13 and haven't looked back since.

And now you play several roles, including women, in *Eula Mae's Beauty, Bait and Tackle*. How did you prepare?

Carefully. I didn't want to play the character as a man in drag but as a woman. One of the characters I play is a mother in her 40s whose life's been for shit. A lot of playing the roles is a matter of logistics. I have to tap dance in high heels and deal with the weight of boobs. It is a real eye-opening experience and completely different from anything I've ever done.

***Eula Mae's* sounds like a hoot. What will people see?**

There are actually two stories going on: The first is Eula Mae, a rodeo rider who has been pursued by the same man for years. Eve year he proposes and every year she says "no." Then something happens that makes he think maybe she should accept the proposal. The second story is about Rita Mae, who is competing in the Miss Alabama Pageant for

the ninth consecutive time. She is bound and determined to win but every year she loses and this is her last qualifying year. The interesting thing about the show is that three people are playing all the characters.

What did you learn from playing Rita Mae?

Rita Mae is by far the most optimistic character I've ever played. In a swimsuit competition, this woman would never have a chance of winning a pageant but she has a dream and all she can control is the energy and effort she puts into it. I am very goal-oriented and have clear steps for what I want. With Rita Mae, what she gains has little to do with wins or losses.

Which is harder, comedy or drama?

For me, comedy. With drama, you pour your heart out on the stage and you don't know how the audience felt until the curtain call. With comedy, you have to sell it right there immediately and when you don't get that response there can be real terror.

Where can we see you next?

I will probably audition for five shows next season and will be blessed if I get one. [Laughs] I'm also working on a new musical, *Christina Darling*, that is *Mommy Dearest* from Joan Crawford's point-of-view. There's a new book I'm writing my sister called *Cinema Shindig* on how to throw the ultimate movie party. We're having a lot of fun doing it and I am getting to know my sister as an adult in the process. Also, I have my first show opening in New York in September as part of the Fall Collection Series.

Joan Crawford?

[Laughs] I have two role models: my father and Joan Crawford. The common theme is personal happiness as an ultimate goal. After working for 25 years, my father quit and went with my mother after the life he was supposed to be living. He never would have found happiness if he had not taken a risk. With Joan, it was a search for happiness that she never found.

As an actor, what's your dream role?

Now I am writing so much that I only do one or two shows per year and try out for roles where I feel like I can bring something new. For me, the greatest roles or not the typical Hamlet or Mercutio; I've seen that. I guess because I am the most uncoordinated human being — I'm 6'2" and move around like someone learning to walk — my dream would be to lead a show-stopping song and dance performance. But I can't carry a tune in a bucket. ■

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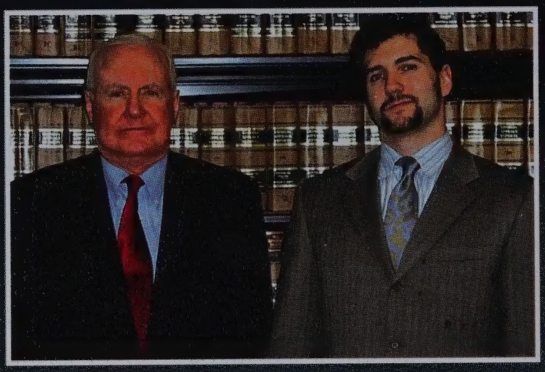

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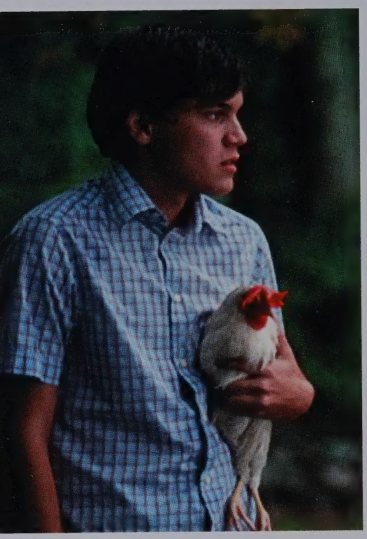
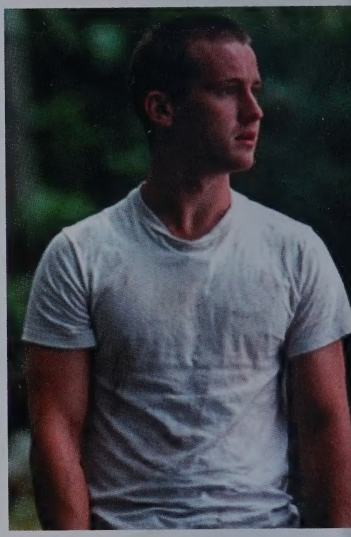


CHICKEN RUN: Emile Hirsch (left) and Tom Guiry in *The Mudge Boy*. (Strand Releasing)

MY NAME IS MUDGE

The Mudge Boy an offbeat, provocative coming-of-age story



THERE ARE MOMENTS OF BRILLIANCE in *The Mudge Boy*. Early in the film, a widower can't fix his necktie for Sunday services, which conveys his loss without uttering a single line of dialogue.

But then there's the scene where a boy puts a chicken's head in his mouth. It's a weird, eerie moment that sets the tone for the rest of this weird, eerie movie. All at once, this flirtation with the chicken represents the child's strange behavior, his grief over his dead mother, and a burgeoning taboo sexuality. *The Mudge Boy* may be the only movie ever made that uses a chicken's head to foreshadow a blowjob.

By now it must be apparent that *The Mudge Boy* is a provocative, perplexing film that should only be seen by open-minded, introspective moviegoers. It's one of those movies you'll spend hours after seeing, scratching your head and wondering, what the hell was that about? *The Mudge Boy* is a movie about grief.

Nineteen-year-old actor Emile Hirsch, who you may remember from the previews for the teen sex romp *The Girl Next Door*, plays farm boy Duncan Mudge. Following the unexpected death of his mother, he deals with her loss — or rather doesn't deal with it — by imitating her behavior and seeking solace in her possessions. At night, he wears her fur coat to bed, and during the day he finds refuge in the friendship of a lame chicken she raised.

When the chicken begins to follow him around like a puppy dog, it prompts the town hellions to call him Chicken Boy. Every time these kids appear, they're blasting heavy metal music from a beat-up red truck. If you know anything about rock 'n' roll's rocky relationship with livestock, then you already know how *The Mudge Boy* is going to end. PETA members, be warned.

Chicken Boy's father is a cold, distant man who doesn't know how to handle his son's unusual reaction to his wife's death. He's played by Richard Jenkins, the superb actor who portrays the ghostly patriarch in HBO's "Six Feet Under." My God, he must be the most depressed man in Hollywood.

With no one to turn to for solace, Chicken Boy looks for love and acceptance in the abused farm boy next door (Tom Guiry). The two teens ultimately develop a touching yet disturbing relationship, and when they finally have sex, it borders on rape, which leaves the viewer wondering whether to be turned on or outraged.

In fact, the film deals with homosexuality much like it does any other subject. It dances all over it. On the one hand, the boys' blossoming romance provides a tender, fascinating snapshot of growing up gay in rural America. On the other, this deft story may lead some viewers to believe that homosexuality can only come from broken homes, abusive parents, and mimicking sex with a chicken. ■

The Mudge Boy *opens June 25 at Landmark Theaters Midtown Arts Cinema.*

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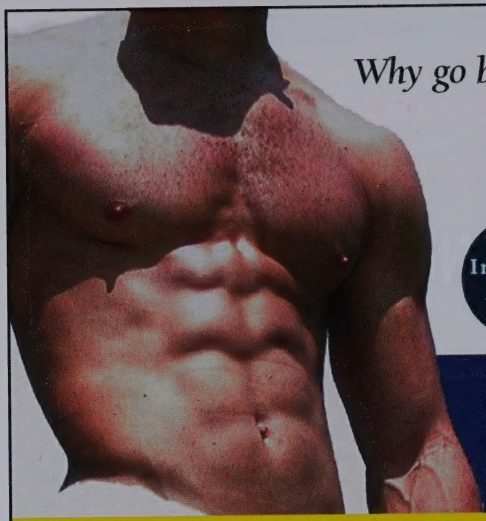

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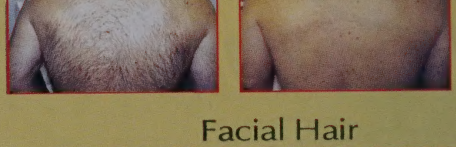
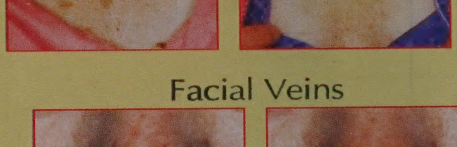
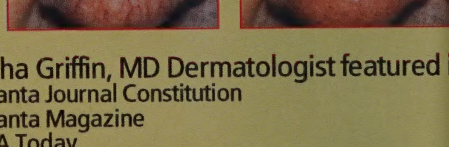


Facial Hair

Age Spots



Facial Veins



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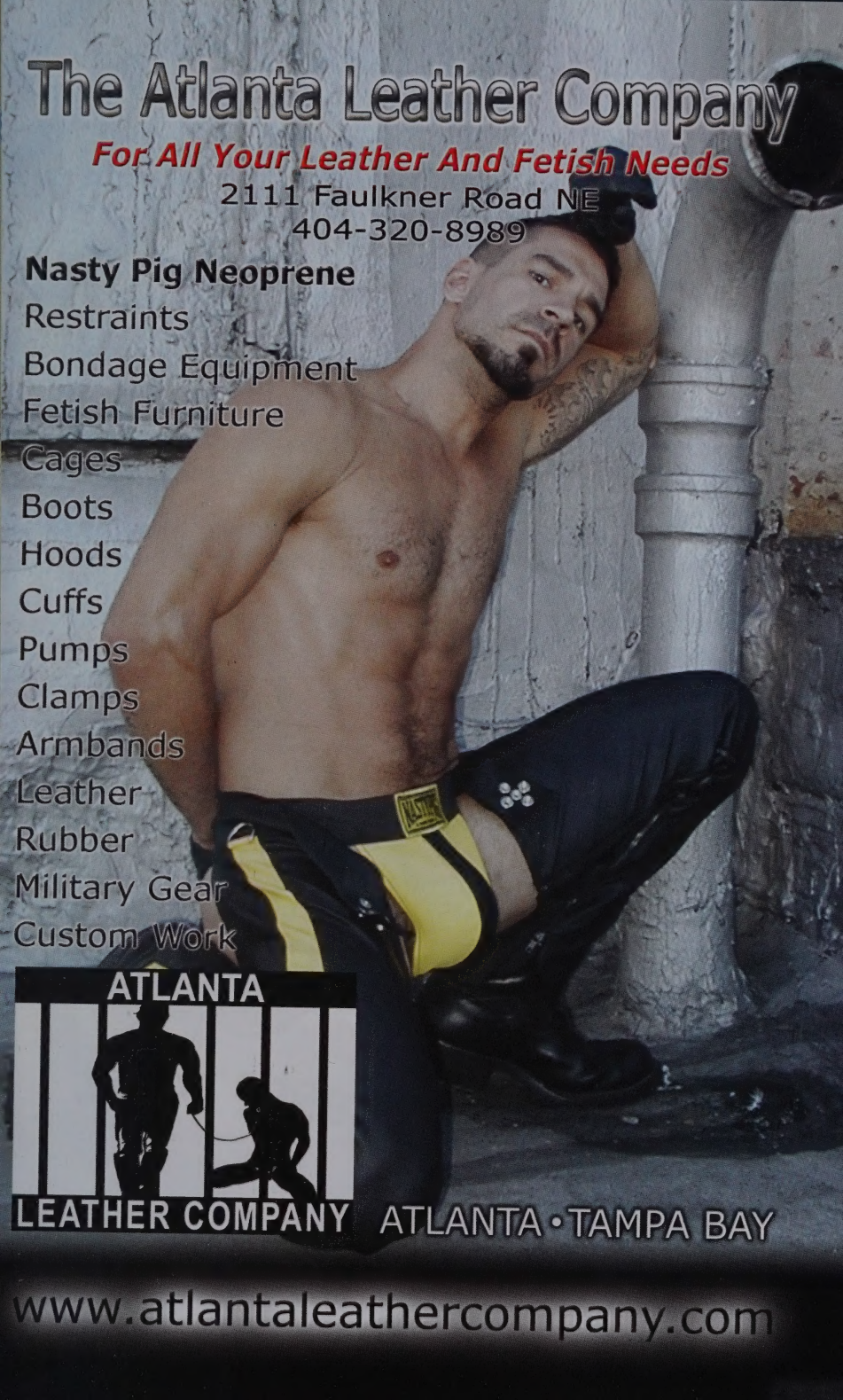
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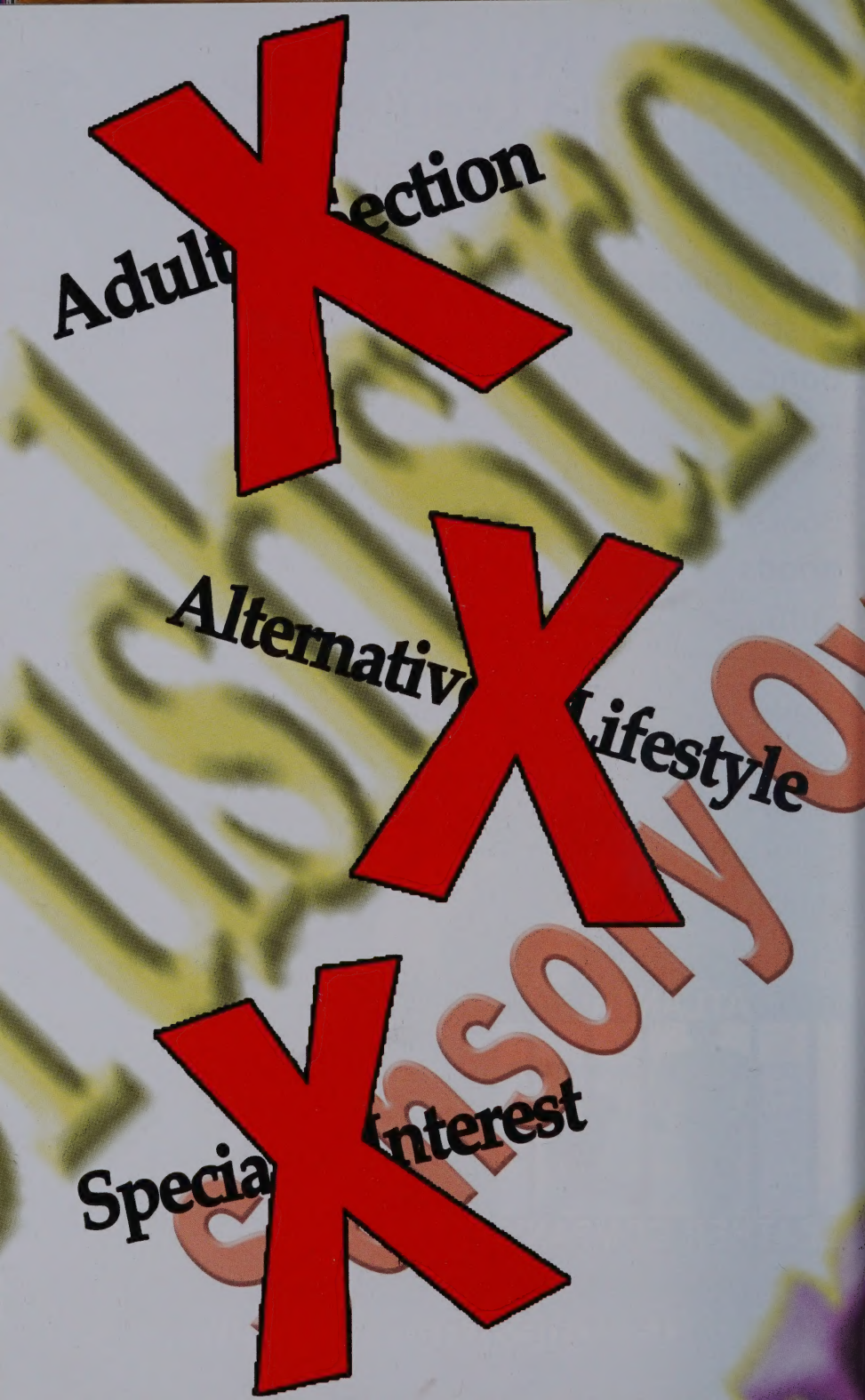
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t some bookstores gay themed magazines (you actually buy for articles not the pictures) are wrapped in plastic.

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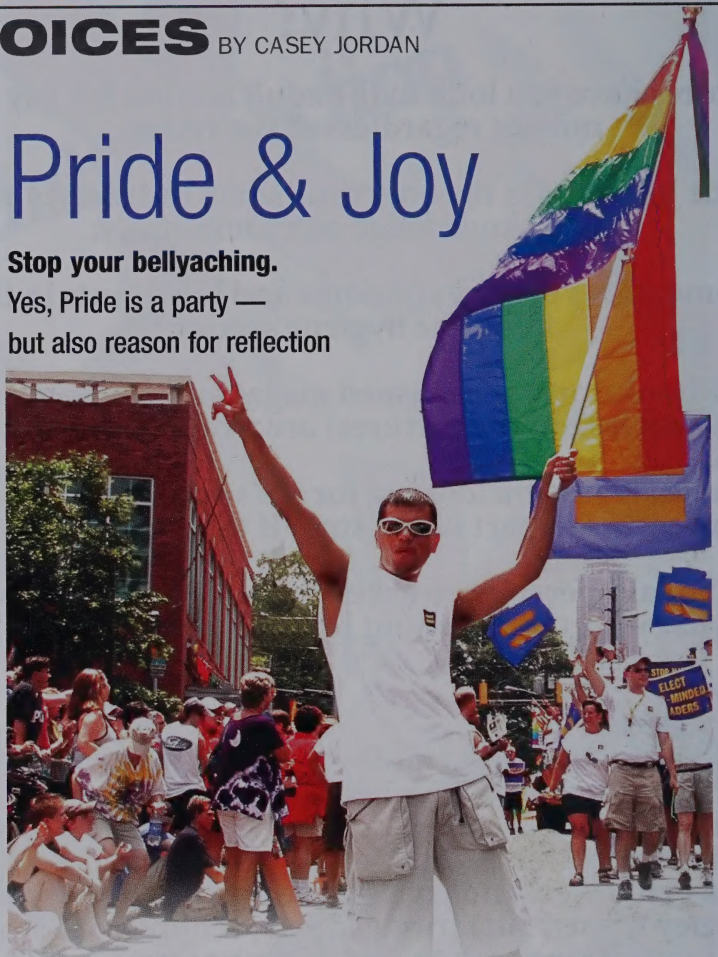
VOICES BY CASEY JORDAN

Pride & Joy

Stop your bellyaching.
Yes, Pride is a party —
but also reason for reflection



RUSS YOUNGBLOOD

WHEN THE WORLD LEARNED THAT Ronald Reagan had died, I was 25 minutes into a treadmill workout, lost in my iPod, at my nearly all-gay gym. I was facing away from a bank of television sets, and I noticed a man opposite me on a StairMaster — maybe 40 years old, his hair silver at the temples — looking up at the screens. As the news registered, he turned to a friend nearby, grinned slyly, and began applauding.

Thousands of gay men — thousands — died before Ronald Reagan first publicly uttered the word "AIDS" in 1986. I am 25 years old, and my generation of gays has its own enemy in the White House. But George W. Bush is more a caricature, a straw-man adversary, than he is a danger to any of our lives. Anyone with even a casual knowledge of the progressive march of history knows that gay marriage, the primary gay-rights battleground of our day, is destined to end in our favor. The world only spins forward.

So we find ourselves in a world where an increasingly large number of gays suggest every year that Pride has outlived its usefulness, having evolved from a protest against police raids in 1969 into today's tricked-out, throbbing street parade — another excuse for a party.

But the evolution itself makes Pride more important today than ever before: We need a reason to stop and recognize how lucky we are.

In 1996, when my first boyfriend was gently guiding me out of the closet, and providing what you might think of as a starter set of gay vocabulary, he told me that gays often referred to each other as "family" because of the support networks they developed in the absence of any support from their biological families.

And maybe that's how we should think of

Pride: It's a family reunion. You can look around on Pride weekend and see the generations who came before you, the eccentric aunts and uncles, the wide-eyed youngsters. It is an exercise in connecting and reminiscing, in learning and reflecting.

Think about it: In the 20th century, our gay ancestry wondered whether they would be executed by Nazis, detained by police in assaults on secretive bars in American cities, or left to die ravaged by a disease that few even bothered to acknowledge, much less cared to cure.

Today, gay culture has dovetailed so thoroughly into the mainstream that when Viacom announced plans last month for a gay-themed channel on cable — basic cable, at that — the idea already seemed somehow outdated. Television is already bringing us the weekly hijinks of the Fab Five on "Queer Eye," the pastel sweaters of Ellen DeGeneres, even an entire reality show devoted to a hair salon. Do we really need another place to catch "Will & Grace" five nights a week?

Maybe not. But the queering of America has been so complete, and so dizzying, that we could all use a reminder that it wasn't always this way — not 35 years ago, at the first Pride, or 20 or even 10. We owe our gay ancestors the same tribute and gratitude at Pride that we owe WWII veterans on D-Day. In each case, they are the soldiers who fought, and in a heart-breakingly high number of cases gave their lives, for our remarkably easy way of life today.

Not long ago, I was talking to a 22-year-old gay boy — not even conceived when Reagan was elected — about "Angels in America," the play-turned-TV movie about the first days of AIDS. The boy, cute, carefree and college-educated, had not seen it. When I suggested he should see it as an exercise in gay heritage, he wrinkled his nose. "That's not my heritage," he sniffed. "AIDS is something that happens in Africa."

My young friend will be at Pride this year, drinking and dancing and flirting, but thousands of his own forefathers will not be. Which is not to say Pride shouldn't be every bit the joyous, outrageous Bacchanal that it's become. But if we take a few minutes, somewhere among the Dykes on Bikes and the Rainbow Trout and the glittering go-go boys, to think about how far we've come, we'll realize we have more reason to celebrate than we ever imagined. ■

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VOICES BY LUCAS MIRÉ

RUSS YOUNGBLOOD

Public displays

I'm still not crazy about Pride, but my views have softened

I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT AS GAY MEN, we're spoiled. We take a lot for granted.

That's especially true if you live in Midtown or any other major metropolitan hub. Sometimes it seems that you can be as gay as you want to be in a big city, and no one even notices. In a way, it's almost like Gay Pride every day, minus a few rainbow flags.

Despite my roots — I grew up in a rural Louisiana town — I think it's easy for me to forget that not every homo feels as free to be himself as us city dwellers do.

Still, for most of my 32 years, Gay Pride seemed superfluous. The first events might have had some meaning back in the Stonewall era, but by now the idea has surely been watered down by beer sponsors and cultural hyperbole, right?

I've long believed that if we don't make our sexuality a big deal, then others are less likely to do so. As sprawling as my gayness can be at times, my sexuality is only one aspect of who I am. Do I need a whole weekend festival to celebrate it?

That's why in 1997 I wrote an op-ed piece for *Southern Voice*, "Why, oh, why Gay Pride?" which generated a surprising amount of supportive mail. It seemed I articulated what was on a lot of gay men's minds.

I had a lot of questions: Does the GLBT sandwich really need another organized party? Must we have another opportunity to purchase rainbow-infused candles and tchotchkes? Why must everything be about being gay?

It seemed like we were attempting to commodify being gay by creating another artificial retail/sponsorship opportunity that centered around an artificial premise like "pride." I mean, can't you have gay pride by simply living an honest life and sharing who you really are with the world you live in?

Besides, the people I knew who were going to the event were there to meet cute guys, hook up and have a big party. Where's the "pride" in that?

I suppose time will either harden you or make you softer. Hopefully, I sound less like a Republican and more like a human being these days.

I'm still not crazy about Pride, but having spent just about a half-hour walking around the last two Atlanta Pride events, I have a broader, gentler perspective.

I realized there are plenty of people who don't live in liberal environs and have to keep the most important relationship of their lives hidden just to avoid harassment or worse.

I talked to one couple last year who looked so beatific just being able to walk around holding hands. Struck by their obvious bliss, I told them how positively their public display of affection affected me.

"This is the one time a year I get to hold my boyfriend's hand in public!" one of the men told me. I think it would be what Oprah calls an "aha" moment.

Of course, one might argue that if expressing affection in public is that important to them, they should move to a more forgiving locale.

It doesn't matter really. What matters is that Pride provides a welcome refuge for rural dwellers, as well as people within our very own community who may feel like outsiders.

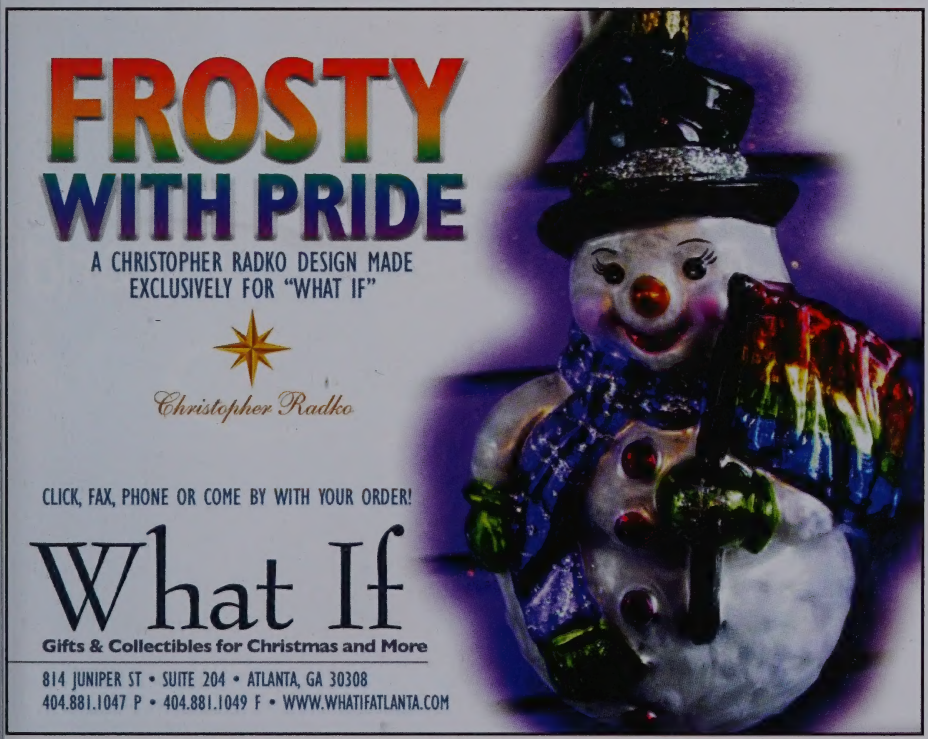
Last year when walking through the park during Pride with a friend, he remarked, "Where are these people the rest of the year?"

In Atlanta, a town where muscles and drugs rule the social scene, it's nice to see a wider view of our own community. Pride draws a welcoming circle of acceptance around the entire queer population — no matter your proclivities, interests or social habits.

Pride, perhaps like the God of my understanding, doesn't care who you are.

Ultimately, Pride is a commingling of issues: coming out, commerce, feeling free and knowing we are safe to be who we are. Its very existence stirs emotions and brings up issues we might not address otherwise. And that's always a good thing.

On our collective journey to self-acceptance, Pride reminds us that we're all more alike than we might have the chance to admit. ■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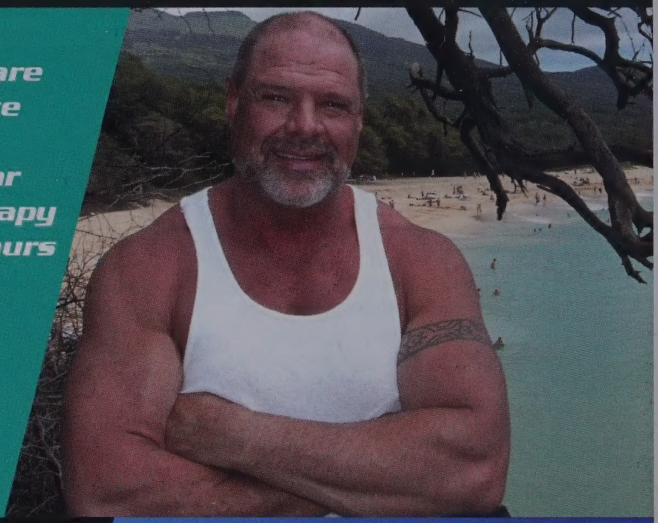

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Boys vs. Girls

A not-so-modest proposal for the future of Pride

I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.
I don't like lesbians much.

That's the main reason I refuse to attend Memorial Day weekend parties in Pensacola. Watching a bloated lesbo funnel a case of beer and puke in a sand dune is not how I want to kick off my summer.

So every June, it takes a whole lot of coaxing — and two or three mimosas — to get me to attend Pride festivities in Piedmont Park. Sure, I love looking at all the fabulous boys and spending time with my friends. But there are just too many lesbians everywhere. How am I supposed to spot hunks around all that flannel?

And don't get me started on Dykes on Bikes. If I wanted to look at a pair of saggy breasts, I'd be straight. And redneck.

It's no secret that lesbians and gay men have nothing in common. They listen to acoustic music and wear baggy clothes; we listen to dance music and wear tight tank-tops. They worship daytime talk show hosts; we worship dance-floor divas. They want to get married, move to Decatur, and make babies. We want to stay young forever, live in Midtown, and raise Chihuahuas.

With so little to unite us, why should we celebrate our sexuality together? The producers of Pride try to please everybody by fitting all our interests into one weekend. In between sets by acoustic folk acts, they let a DJ spin dance records. But it comes across as schizophrenic and annoying. Just as you get a good groove going, some angry chick with a guitar hops on stage.

Wouldn't it be great if there were two separate Pride events: one for gay men and one for lesbians?

Gay men could celebrate all the stuff they love one weekend. In the park, we'd have DJs spinning non-stop, and the booths would be filled with designer clothes and hair products. Some fabulous drag queen would lead the parade. At our Pride, the decorations would be fierce, but everything would start two hours late.

Let the lesbians have their own weekend. Michelle Malone and The Indigo Girls could play all day long. There would be more food, cheaper beer and better celebrities. Home Depot can build the booths.

Now don't get me wrong. I don't think for a second that gay men are perfect. We'd still have to deal with the outlandish leather daddies wearing latex gloves as they march down 10th Street. So classy. Ladies, you can finally be rid of all that! I'm proposing this as much for you as it is for me.

By now, you're probably thinking I've completely forgotten the true meaning behind Pride. Puh-leeze! Gay Pride is no longer about making ourselves visible and fighting for our rights. We do that every day. Don't you watch CNN?

Pride Weekend is just another excuse to party. God knows, gay men love to party.

Just not with any damn lesbians around. ■

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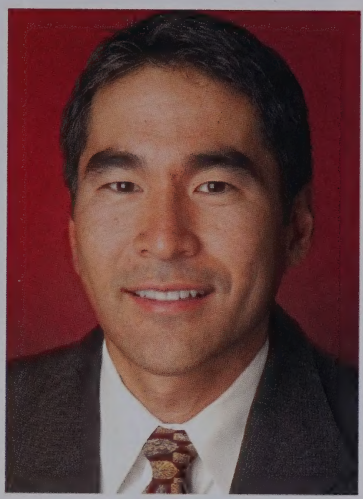

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VOICES BY NEIL JAMES

Confessions of a Pride parade freakshow

Why this year I'm not putting my most flamboyant face forward.

I LOVE GAY PRIDE WEEKEND.
Last year my ex, Ron, and I marched with the Radical Faeries. Ron was a flower child, wearing chains of daisies woven into his shaggy hair and spirit glued to his face and hands, with flowers and peace signs painted on his arms and legs.

I wanted to glue petals to his eyelids, but thankfully his better judgment prevailed. I just get so excited about Pride.

Ron rushed me because I was running late. "What are you doing in there?" he asked, pounding on the bathroom door.

"I'm putting on my face!"

It was worth the wait. I looked fabulous. I always do, but last Pride I looked especially fabulous with my hot pink, woven coolie hat, emerald Geisha robe and the Chinese characters for "pig" and "bottom" meticulously brushed across my stark white Kabuki makeup. I aspired for an Oriental theme — think Japanese pleasure girl meets Red China brutality, but in truth I was about as authentic as a $3.99 Asian buffet.

On the way to the parade little Italian ladies applauded and blew kisses at us. Ron rewarded their love with fresh-cut daisies. From a crowd of gawkers a boorish man asked in a lilting tone, "Hey boys, what's the occasion?"

I dully replied, "We're celebrating Gay Pride. What's yours?"

Everyone laughed and the straight community embraced Ron and I as freaks dressed like clowns on a random Sunday morning. But we were funny freaks with free flowers, so they accepted us.

As my girlfriend Jacqueline jokes, "Gays are cute when they make me laugh and don't harass me for equal rights."

I remember when I was 8. I can't remember much of *28*, but I distinctly remember at the age of 8 my father told me not to swish my wrist. He didn't say I was "gay" or "sissy," but simply said, "Don't swish your wrist." I was shocked because I didn't realize I was actively swishing my wrists. Even at 8 I thought I was pretty butch.

Well, friends inform me that contrary to my own self image I'm sometimes not as brawny, rugged, masculine, manly and butch as my online profiles claim. Truth be told, sometimes I'm a big ole girl. It's one of the many faces I've come to embrace.

As we grow, the most familiar face we see is usually the most alien. Since coming out, my weight has fluctuated up and down 70 pounds. I've been fucked up at the bars staring at my

dilated, crossed eyeballs wondering how I'm getting home. I've gotten ready for that big first date, nervously combing my hair, when I had it. I've been there crying in the mirror, splashing cold water in my eyes when that inevitable "talk" ended my romance with Ron and many others. From graduations, to holidays, to birthdays, to Prides, the many faces we show ourselves, lovers, family, little Italian ladies and boorish straight guys are ever changing.

That's the joy and terror of growing older. Whatever, embrace it.

We live and play in a culture fixated on youth and perpetual beauty. In Greek legend, Narcissus was entranced by his own reflection in a pool of water. Staring into those dreamy eyes looking back at him, the bitch drowned.

It's a shame. Had he looked away for one second he'd have seen a dozen other boys, all intent on themselves and drowning. It's not how it should be. I have self-image issues every day, but looking away from that mirror has opened my eyes to the world around me.

I've been out for a decade (egads!) and for this Gay Pride I'm doing something really radical. I'm putting my best face forward and I'm going to march as myself. Myself, with a little face paint and swishy wrists. ■

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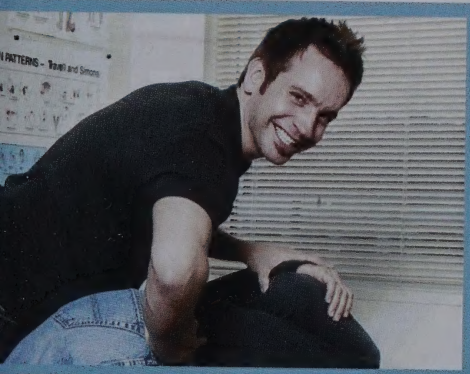

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VOICES

BY JOHN R. BALLEW

Back to (gay) basics

This has been a banner year — but there's lots of work still to be done

THERE'S A LOT TO CELEBRATE AS COMMUNITIES across America recognize the anniversary of the Stonewall uprisings 35 years ago. A lot has happened since we hauled out the rainbow banners twelve months ago. We mark a year of no longer being felons anywhere in the country when we sleep with someone of the same gender. We mark a month of legal marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and celebrate the acts of "marital disobedience" in cities and towns from New Paltz, New York, to Portland, Ore., and San Francisco.

There are more images of people like us in the media — so many that we take it for granted these days. And polls show steadily rising acceptance of queer people throughout most segments of society, especially among younger folks.

In many ways, it has been a great year to be queer. So take time to celebrate.

We could all use a little time to recognize how far we've come, because the months ahead aren't going to be so easy. This is an election year, and the progress gay people have made is going to be used by the radical right to try and scare voters into believing the sky is falling.

Don't let the ugly rhetoric of politicians or church leaders scare you. They wouldn't be raising a ruckus if we weren't making real progress, and we are. Hateful talk from bishops and candidates can wear you down. Try not to pay too much attention. And remember that there are things you can do that will make you feel much better:

COME OUT. Yeah, you've heard it before, but it's still important. The evidence is clearer than ever that attitudes change when people know someone who is gay.

REGISTER AND VOTE. "I'm not political" won't cut it this year; we're all political one way or another. If you don't vote, it's like letting members of the Christian Coalition vote twice, and that sucks.

STAY INFORMED. Know what the issues are, beginning with those foul anti-gay amendments that threaten to pollute the state constitutions of Georgia and so many other states. The more you know about the issues and candidates, the stronger you'll be when it's time to ...

SPEAK OUT. Let family and friends know how you feel about issues. If every gay, lesbian, bi or trans person spoke out to straight family and friends about how these issues affected their lives, we'd be a powerful force to be reckoned with. (And consider writing a check to support the gay rights groups and the political campaigns of political leaders who support us, too.)

So take a long weekend to enjoy the hard-won fruits of our labors over the past year. You've earned it. Then roll up your sleeves and realize that we've all got work to do.

Happy Gay Pride! ■

John R. Ballew, M.S., is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Atlanta. He specializes in issues related to coming out, sexuality and relationships and spirituality. www.bodymindsoul.org or at 404-874-8536.

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HISTORY

BY DAVE HAYWARD

Past and presence

Epochal moments in Atlanta's gay history show how far we've come

Activist Gil Robison (center, in black jacket) rallies a group of protestors for a 1981 demonstration

ON VALENTINE'S DAY OF THIS YEAR hundreds of protestors shivered on the steps of the State Capitol, shaking as much from outrage as we did from frost-biting rain. Again we were confronting the right wing, this outing over our fight to marry one another, and not simply for our right to be. At least in the 35 years since Stonewall, our stakes have increased.

When I was 19, I drank in the *New York Times* story about the Stonewall riot. It was excruciating coming out in 1969 with nothing but negative images and no student groups. I made myself go to the gay bars alone in Washington, D.C., until I finally made some friends. When the Gay Liberation Front started the next year, I threw myself into it, eager to be with other young men and to fight injustice. At the end of 1971 I moved to Atlanta.

Here's my subjective view of some of the major moments in the Atlanta gay history. Please note how the opponents' names change, but not the right wing or religious affiliations, and how we can take anything and still we rise.

1972 / ABOUT 300 GAYS PARTICIPATED in the city's second Pride march, thrilled at the size and also to be on TV and radio. (The city's first Pride rally took place in 1970 in Piedmont Park, and about 125 people came out for the city's first march in 1971.) Co-chairs Bill Smith and Judy Lambert were interviewed on a TV talk show, and later that year Mayor Sam Massell made our first political appointment: Charlie St. John to the Community Relations Commission. Drag queen Severin whipped us into frenzy, warbling "I'm Tired of Straight Men Fucking Over Me!"

1976 / MAYOR MAYNARD JACKSON proclaimed an official Gay Pride Day for the first time, but the Southern Baptist "Citizens for a

Decent Atlanta" protested in full-page ads. We picketed the Baptist Church next to Phipps Plaza. Mayor Jackson proclaimed "Human Rights Day" from then on. Activist Gil Robison invited political candidates to address gays, starting the first LGBT political action committee.

1978 / NOW IT'S SINGER ANITA BRYANT'S turn to terrorize, and her "Save Our Children" overturned Miami's gay rights ordinance, leading to defeats in other cities. Girlfriend was special guest of the Southern Baptist Convention at the World Congress Center and about 2,000 of us and our straight allies showed up. Maria Dolan made a memorable "I come to you today as a defiant dyke!" speech, and excess money raised razzing Anita went to fund a LGBT Center.

1982 / AFTER SURVIVING THE ELECTION of Ronald Reagan ("See you in the camps," we said to one another election night) along came AIDS. Designer Graham Bruton and a group of concerned gay men held an anxious town meeting late that year, which led to the creation of AID Atlanta.

1986 / IN FEBRUARY GAYS ENCIRCLED the First Baptist Church at 5th and Peachtree Streets (now an office building) to protest Rev. Charles Stanley saying AIDS is God's judgment against sinners. In October the City Council considered repealing Atlanta's gay rights ordinance, and the Citizens for Public Awareness warned, "Do you want Atlanta turned into another San Francisco?" in full-page ads. The repeal failed.

1987 / ATLANTAN MICHAEL HARDWICK challenged Georgia's sodomy law all the way to the Supreme Court, which upheld it. That insult became the spur for the second National March on Washington. Gay Center director Ray Kluka and hundreds more were arrested on the steps of the Supreme Court, and the AIDS Quilt made its debut as a catharsis for grief and celebration. Playwright Rebecca Ransom and Chris Cash launched *Southern Voice* after the march.

1988 / THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL Convention nominates Dukakis in Atlanta, but the up side is that national activists helped start an Act Up/Fight AIDS radical action group here.

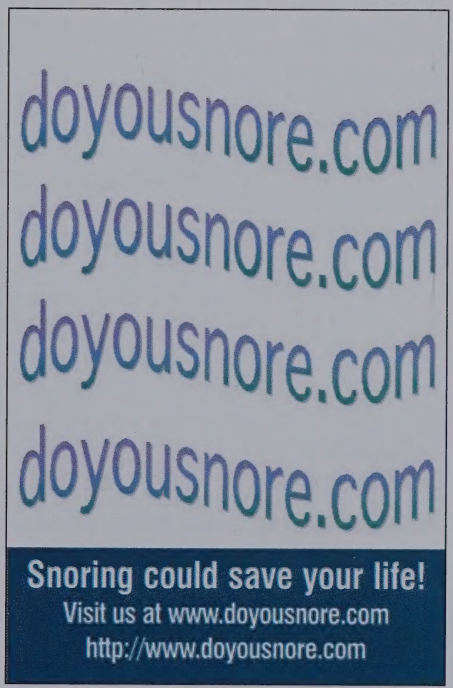
1993 / HERE WE GO AGAIN, as the Cobb County Commission passed an anti-gay resolution and tied it to eliminating funding for the arts for good measure. Activists mobbed Marietta Square, and Jon Ivan Weaver and Pat Hussain spearheaded a successful effort to keep the 1996 Olympics Out of Cobb venues.

1996 / A VAST AND WELCOMING GAY AND Lesbian Visitors Center awaited visitors to the Olympics. Actor's Express remounted its smash gay musical "The Harvey Milk Show" as part of the official Cultural Olympiad.

1997 / CATHY WOOLARD BECAME the first openly gay person elected to office in Georgia with her seat on the Atlanta City Council.

2004 / OUR OLD "FRIENDS" ARE BACK in 2004, this time Sadie Fields and the Christian Coalition keepin' us from hitchin'. This too, will pass. ■

Dave Hayward is coordinator of Touching Up Our Roots, Atlanta's GLBT History Project Initiative. Roots is a grassroots community effort to preserve Atlanta's queer story on audiotape and on video, in publishing, and in the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Atlanta Historical Society. Listen to WABE 90.1 FM from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. this week for reports on contemporary gay issues. For information, e-mail davehaywards@yahoo.com.



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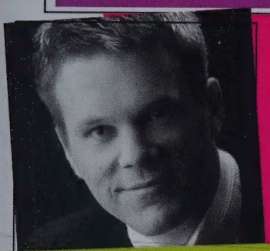
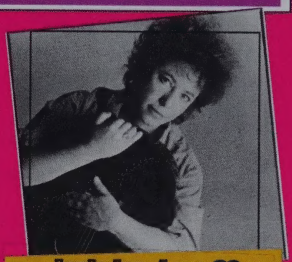
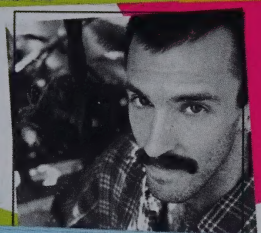


Atlanta Symphoney Orchestra June 25

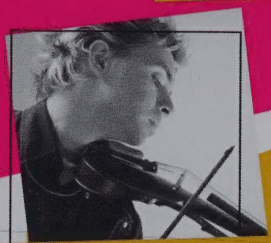
Doria Roberts June 26



Janis Ian June 26



Mark Weigle June 27



Dr Draw June 26

Friday June 25
6-11pm

The Vigil at PRIDE
30 Washintgton Mutual Stage

ommitment Ceremony
:00 Sheraton Colony Square

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
8:00 Coca-Cola Stage

The PRIDE Prom
8:00 Magnolia Hall

Saturday June 26
11am-11pm

Dyke March
6:00 Charles Allen Gate

VIP Party "by Invitation only"
6:30 Magnolia Hall

Doria Roberts
7:30 Coca Cola Stage

Janis Ian
8:30 Coca Cola Stage

Dr Draw
9:30 Coca Cola Stage

Sunday June 27
11am-11pm

The PRIDE Parade
sponsored by Delta Air Lines
1:00PM Kick Off-
MARTA Civic Center Station
assembly begins 10:30

Mark Weigle
3:30 Coca Cola Stage

Starlight Cabaret
8:30 Coca Cola Stage

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AURAL PLEASURES

The weekend's **must-hear music acts**

PRIDE IS ALWAYS JAM-PACKED WITH THINGS to see and do — and music is a big part of the weekend. There are plenty of fantastic performers to see in Piedmont Park this year, but here are a few artists that you don't want to miss.

SATURDAY

JANIS IAN

IN HER EARLY TEENS, LIVING LEGEND JANIS IAN started her career with a couple of hit songs ("At Seventeen" and "Society's Child") and nine Grammy nominations for her first recording. She's certainly fallen from the pop-culture radar with her subsequent 17 CDs, but to her gay and lesbian fan base, she's never been more vital.

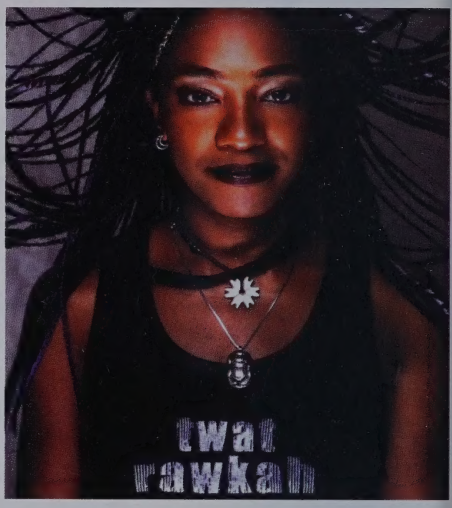
Her latest recording, "Billie's Bones," finds the singer-songwriter in top folk form, dishing out a set of songs that are more personal than political this time around. No doubt she'll stack her set heavily with tracks from the new record, especially the titular song about one of her favorite musicians, Billie Holliday.

Even if you're not wild about girls and guitars, trust me, this is a fantastic opportunity to see how the pros do it.

Sat., June 26, 8:30 p.m., Coca-Cola Stage
www.janisian.com

DORIA ROBERTS

THE FIRST TIME I SAW DORIA ROBERTS perform, she was wearing her trademark cowboy hat and singing her signature song, "Perfect." Suddenly she stopped playing guitar, unplugged her instrument and walked out into the audience at Red Light Café still singing — with no amplification. It was one of those chill-inducing musical moments. Did someone say, "perfect"?



It's doubtful anything as dramatic will happen when Roberts takes the stage before Janis Ian Saturday night, but, if you haven't checked out Roberts around town, now's your chance.

Roberts is passionately political — and touring in Europe recently — so it's likely her set will be liberally sprinkled with political rhetoric and calls to action. There's a fire in her eyes when she talks about the state of the world, and it's the same spark that lights up when she sings songs from one of her four generally excellent CDs.

Sat., June 26, 7:30 p.m., Coca-Cola Stage
www.doriaroberts.com

ALSO CHECK OUT: For something a bit more upbeat and danceable, stop by Happy Charles'

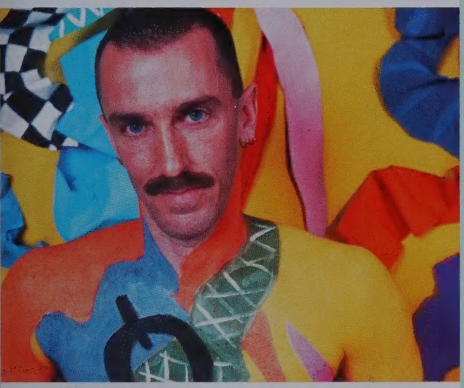
set at 4:15 p.m. on the Coca-Cola Stage. Charles, who collaborates with former Cyndi Lauper-producer and co-writer Jan Pulsford, says he's created a new sound called "trancepop." It sounds like it worth stopping by, if only to see if he's got the goods.

SUNDAY

MARK WEIGLE

BILLBOARD MAGAZINE'S LARRY FLICK WROTE that one of Mark Weigle's songs — "A Good Day" from his 2000 CD *All That Matters* — should have been Record of the Year.

'Nuff said, right? Wrong.



Weigle, who sounds like a more impassioned and personable Lyle Lovett, has been awarded more kudos for his eclectic music than you might imagine. According to the singer-songwriter himself, his music won't be fenced in. It has elements of folk, rock, pop, and country.

And he's really down with Pride.

"There's a really cool buzz in the air when the whole community gets together for the gayest day of the year," says Weigle. "All that energy makes for a great vibe at the show.

Weigle has gotten frequent media mentions for being one of the first gay musicians to put his gay pride into song by not avoiding gender specific pronouns.

Weigle will be adding another notch in his performing belt when he pulls into Piedmont Park: He's never been to Atlanta before. So, if you're in the park before his Sunday set, be sure to stop by his booth to say hi or sample some of his tunes.

Sunday, June 27, 3:30 p.m., Coca-Cola Stage

ALSO CHECK OUT: Nashville-based singer-songwriter Steff Mahan will be playing her unique blend of country-rock on the Coca-Cola stage. The famed Bluebird Café regular's 5:45 p.m. set may be a perfect way to starting winding down your Sunday. ■

COMPLETE SCHEDULE

FRI 06.25

COCA-COLA STAGE

5 p.m.: House music
8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

SAT 06.26

COCA-COLA STAGE

12:30 p.m.-1 p.m.: Miss Nova (rock)
1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.: Modern Marriage (pop/rock)
2 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Bari
2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.: Crystal Clear Band (pop/covers)
3:30 p.m.-4 p.m.: Delancey Street Band (world beat rock)
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.: Happy Charles (dance)
5 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: Demizes (urban pop)
5:45 p.m.-6:15 p.m.: Kristy Lee (folk-rock)
6:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m.: DuVal & AveMaria (soul-funk)
7:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m.: Doria Roberts (indie rock)
8:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m.: Janis Ian (folk)
9:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.: Dr. Draw (electric violin)

WASHINGTON MUTUAL ACOUSTIC STAGE

11 a.m.-noon: Bugaboos (children's show)
12:30 p.m.-1 p.m.: Vicki Genfan (singer songwriter)
1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m.: Jean Spencer (singer songwriter
2 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.: Malika (singer songwriter/ spoken word)
2:45 p.m.-5:15 p.m.: Daemon Records artists review (variety)
5:30 p.m.-5:50 p.m.: DrumSista (performance/ drum circle)
6 p.m.-6:30 p.m.: Wayne Fishell (indie folk pop)
6:45 p.m.-7:15 p.m.: Mark Scott (country pop)
7:30 p.m.-8 p.m.: Chasemissy (folk rock)

SUN 06.27

COCA-COLA STAGE

noon-1:30 p.m.: House music
1:30 p.m.-2 p.m.: Jazzmatic (eclectic jazz)
2:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.: Taffether (pop)
2:55 p.m.-3:15 p.m.: Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus (choral)
3:30 p.m.-4:10 p.m.: Mark Weigle (singer songwriter)
4:15 p.m.-4:45 p.m.: Heidi Hensley Band (pop/rock)
5 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: Three5Human (modern rock)
5:45 p.m.-6:25 p.m.: Steff Mahan (country rock)
6:35 p.m.-7:20 p.m.: Lisa Jackson & Girl Friday (punk/pop)
7:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m.: Michel Jons (pop/cover)
8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.: Starlight Cabaret (drag show)

WASHINGTON MUTUAL ACOUSTIC STAGE

2:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m.: The Woman's World & nghosi-books.com literary event (spoken word)
5:45 p.m.-6:15 p.m.: Robin Leigh (acoustic pop)
6:30 p.m.-7 p.m.: Little Country Giants (Americana)

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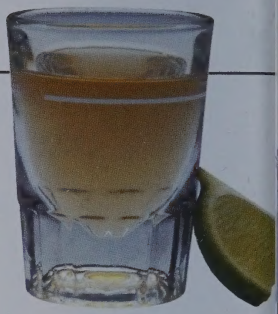

Drinking again

An (opinionated) guide to **ATL's gay bars**

WELCOME BACK TO PRIDE IN THE GAYTL. Before plunging into a long weekend of hedonism, you must know some major changes have been dealt to our fine city's nightlife in the past couple of years — mostly having to do with liquor laws. First of all, your favorite bars now close at 3 a.m. if they are serving alcohol, with a midnight closing time on Sundays. Don't blame me, call your fine government officials.

Second, we walked around in a mournful haze for months after the Fall of the House of Backstreet. Yes, that fine institution lost its 24-hour liquor license at the start of the year, leaving those hallowed halls largely deserted and many partygoers fleeing elsewhere.

Have no fear, out-of-town revelers: As we did after Sherman's burning, we have risen out of the ashes like the pretty phoenixes we are, finding new and wonderful places to wet our whistles and light our wicks. Here's a rundown of newcomers and old favorites.

SHALL WE START WITH THE STUNNING watering hole aptly named WETbar? One should expect a gorgeous two-story space with a rooftop deck, views of the skyline as well as the kind of bevy of beautifully buffed boys that you've come to expect to see while visiting Atlanta. One should not expect to have a conversation there about Sartre or the state of post-revolutionary Sudan. Come to WETbar to find your trophy husband: You won't be disappointed.

Meanwhile, homeless Backstreet refugees seeking a new drumbeat found comfort this year in WETbar's sister club, Blü (that's pronounced "blue," not "blah"). Without a liquor license, this space is able to stay open past the city's closing time and is the epicenter of any Saturday night. Sadly, we will be saying adieu to Blü in July, when the club shuts down for renovations and later reopens as alcohol-serving Ocean. *WETbar and Blü, 960 Spring St. 404-877-1221.*

ONCE THE WHIPPING HALLS AND GOTH ground zero of The Chamber, the warehouse space has been artfully renovated into Jungle. The latest creation from the owners of Red Chair is perhaps a more conventional dance club than Blü, playing top 40 and house music to a much more eclectic crowd. And speaking of Red Chair, the stand-and-model video bar remains a weekend favorite. Fridays still attract scores of pretty boys, but for something different, check out its new Sunday T. *Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Rd. 404-844-8800. Red Chair Restaurant and Video Lounge, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. 404-870-0532.*

ACROSS FROM JUNGLE ON CHESHIRE BRIDGE Road is a true Atlanta bastion of sin, The Heretic. This dance floor is sweaty and steaming — you can feel the floorboards heaving underneath you from the sheer weight of the crowd. After a few of the strongest drinks in Atlanta (which I liken to imbibing kerosene) check out the dark and scary "back alley," or try your luck with some sticks and balls in the rear billiard room. *2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 404-325-3061.*

YES, IT'S A SCHOOL NIGHT, BUT FOR THOSE of you living your "alternative lifestyle" on the edge, there's always Impulse on Wednesday nights at a sprawling new complex on the west side of town called Compound. Past the palisade fence (I call it "Jamestown"), prepare to be transported through a Japanese garden and into one of the city's finest clubs where the glitterati and fashionistas come to rejuvenate on hump day. A beautiful club with a hospitable staff and a magnificent modern dance floor. *1008 Brady Ave. 404-872-4621.*

ANOTHER FINE AND RELATIVELY NEW establishment is across from the infamous Gold Club on Piedmont Road, Woofs. Clearly opposite from the WETbars of the world, Woofs is a sports bar catering to the Pride-filled patron who has had enough of the

attitude elsewhere ... and all of the gay and esbian athletes in the city. Get out your old ballcap, drink a beer, grab your crotch and make a friend. *2425 Piedmont Rd. 404-869-9422.*

F YOU LIKE WOOFS, YOU'LL PROBABLY LOVE Hoedowns. An Atlanta institution, this honky-onk/country-line-dancing venue gets packed with the meatiest Marlboro men and women during Pride weekend. If you love country music and can two-step in traffic then you're eady for this high-energy dance floor. Dust off hat ol' cowboy hat and boots and find the ightest pair of jeans you've got. *931 Monroe Dr. 404-876-0001.*

NOW LADIES, LEST YOU THINK THAT I'M orgetting you, one must take in the xperience that is My Sister's Room in Decatur. Affectionately dubbed "the divine ecrets of the ya-ya redneck sisterhood," the rowd here ranges from the lovely lipstick to he boisterous bull. If there's a DJ (period) then he dance floor is always a blast! They don't all it Dykatur for nothin'. *222 East Howard Ave. 404-370-1990.*

SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF MIDTOWN, a few doors down from Backstreet, you'll find Bulldogs. Catering to a primarily African-American male crowd, this bar and patio is always packed and the clientele are kind and welcoming. Beware, though: It's the scariest bathroom in the world ... and baby, I've seen some bathrooms! *893 Peachtree St. 404-872-3025.*

WHEN LOST AND IN DOUBT, TAKE YOURSELF to the Fabulous Four in Ansley Square: Burkhart's, Felix's on the Square, The Oscar's and Colours. Within steps of one another, you can sing along to your favorite Broadway show in which you never starred or witness the spectacle that is the famous and charity-minded Amorettes. *Burkhart's, 1492-F Piedmont Rd., 404-872-4403.*

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF JUST SOUTHEAST of the city, make a point to stop into Mary's. As electic in its design as its crowd, this East Atlanta Village watering hole has the feel of a neighborhood bar — "everyone knows your name" kind of thing. Saturdays is karaoke with CJ and the iconic Carmen behind the bar. Be kind or she'll cut ya! *1287 Glenwood Ave. 404-624-4411.* ■

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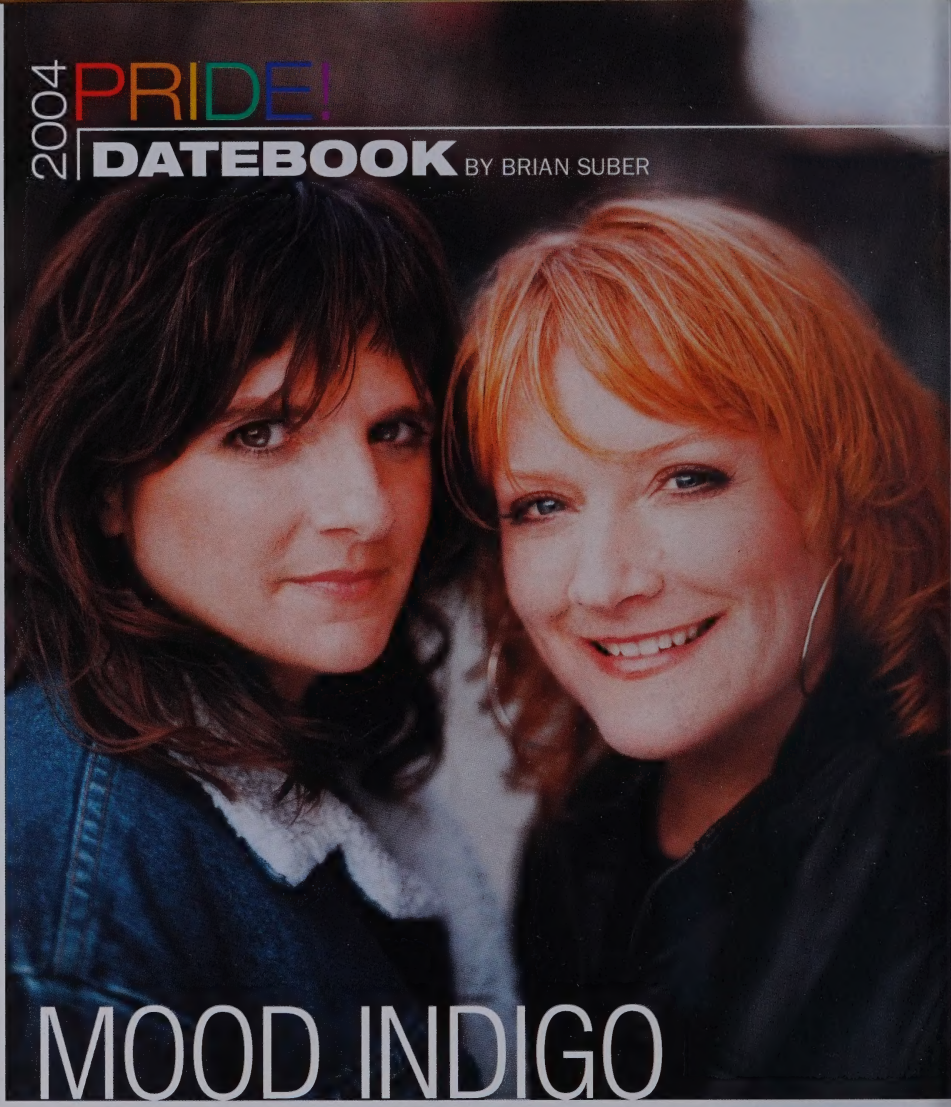
FROM NORTH ATLANTA, TAKE 75/85 SOUTH TO WILLIAMS ST. EXIT 249C
MAKE A LEFT ONTO ANDREW YOUNG INT'L BLVD.
BEAR RIGHT IMMEDIATELY ONTO CARNEGIE WAY.
MAKE A RIGHT ONTO CONE ST. AND A LEFT ONTO POPLAR ST.
THE MARK IS ON YOUR LEFT AFTER CROSSING FAIRLIE ST.

2004 PRIDE!

DATEBOOK

BY BRIAN SUBER



MOOD INDIGO

The first ladies of lesbian rock the **Indigo Girls** return to the gay Mecca of the South for a special Pride weekend performance. Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have been playing music together for more than two decades and have built legions of fans with their guitar-based sounds. This is real woman rock! *Chastain Amphitheatre, June 26-27. www.classicchastain.com.*

GET BENT

The classic gay play ***Bent***, set in Germany during the Holocaust, opens June 24 at Actor's Express. Starring Mitchell Anderson ("Party of Five"), the show deals with the transcendence of fears and doubts by love. The theater is honoring the 25th anniversary of the Martin Sherman drama, which has been staged in 40 countries and 21 languages . Must-see theater. *King Plow Arts Center, 887 W. Marietta St. $10.50-$26.75. June 24-Aug. 14. 404-607-7469. www.actors-express.com.*

BUCK YOU

Our own hunky hometown gay rugby team the **Atlanta Bucks** take on the Austin Lonestars for bragging rights. Everything may be bigger in Texas, but the home team will certainly kick some ass and take some names (and numbers for the after-party). Take a break from the Pride Market, grab a beer and cheer the Bucks to victory. Brawny guys in a scrum — hold us back! June 26, 2 p.m.
Piedmont Park soccer fields. Free.

THEATER

Cyrano de Bergerac: Sword and swashbuckler tale with a really big ... schnoz. Sweet! The show plays in repertory with *What the Butler Saw*, gay playwright Joe Orton's uproarious British comedy. *Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Conant Performance Arts Center, Oglethorpe University, 4484 Peachtree Rd. Through Aug. 8. $10-$35. 404-264-0020. www.gashakespeare.org.*

Help (pictured below): The wildest staged therapy seminar ever. And you think your sessions are bad. *Out of Hand Theater, Dad's Garage Top Shelf, 280 Elizabeth St. $15-$18. 404-593-7866. www.outofhandtheater.com.*

Her Little House: Old South meets New South in this hilarious family tale. Time to pull out the family album. The show plays in repertory with *Notes from the Bottletree*, a provocative new play set in Atlanta. *Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. Through June 27. $18-$25. 404-584-7450. www.horizontheatre.com.*

Peachtree Battle: The new Atlanta classic comedy keeps 'em rolling in the aisles. Families were never so much fun. *Ansley Park Playhouse, 1545 Peachtree St. $23.50. 404-875-1193. www.ansleyparkplayhouse.com.*

The King and I: East meets West in this musical starring Sandy Duncan. *Fox Theater, 660 Peachtree St. Through June 27. 404-252-8960. www.theaterofthestars.com.*

La Cage aux Folles: Classic drag tale of family, love and acceptance set in the South of France. *Neighborhood Playhouse, 430 W. Trinity Pl., Decatur. $16-$20. 404-373-5311. www.nplayhouse.org.*

MUSIC

Nanci Griffith (above): Grammy-award winning folk superstar performs at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. *1345 Piedmont. June 25. 8 p.m. $30-$45. 404-876-5859. www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org.*

On the Fly: Modern dance and theater improv performance. You can't spend the whole weekend in a bar. *Richardson Fine Arts Center, 1662 Rugby Ave., College Park. 8 p.m. Pay what you can. 404-499-8354. www.flybytheatre.org*

Sevendust: Superstar band performs as part of the On the Bricks Concert Series. Rock on! *Centennial Olympic Park. June 25, 5:30 p.m. $5. 404-222-PARK. www.onthebricks.com.*

ETC.

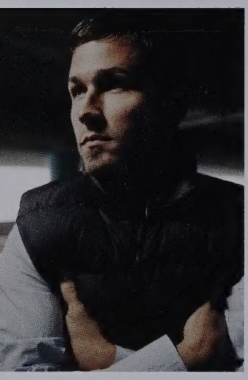
"Collegeland" wrap party: Celebrate the screening of local filmmaker Scotty Mullen's new series. *Bazzaar, 654 Peachtree St., 9:30 p.m. 404-885-7505, www.bazzaaratlanta.com.*

Atlanta Cotillion benefit pool party: Debutante Hydrangea Justine Hartsfield-Jackson hosts a tropical-themed soiree. *June 26, 1 p.m. 137 East Lake Dr. $20 suggested donation. 404-840-2171*

Donald Windham: Critically-acclaimed gay author reads from *The Dog Star*. *Margaret Mitchell House, 990 Peachtree. June 23. $8. 404-249-7012. www.gwtw.org.*

Yappy Hour: Pride party for pets and pals. Isn't it time you spent some quality time with spot? *Piedmont Bark, 501 Amsterdam Ave. June 24. 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. $10. 404-873-5400. www.piedmontbark.com.*

2004 PRIDE! NIGHTLIFE PARTY PLANNER



WED 06.23

IMPULSE

The weekly gay night at Compound kicks off Pride with special guest DJ Kaskade (left) of San Francisco. Regulars DJ Coqui, DJ Inc, Nicole Paige Brooks, Phoenix and Shawnna Brooks also appear. *Compound, 1008 Brady Ave. 9 p.m.-3 a.m. $15. 404-872-4621, www.impulseatl.com*

THU 06.25

WORK HARD

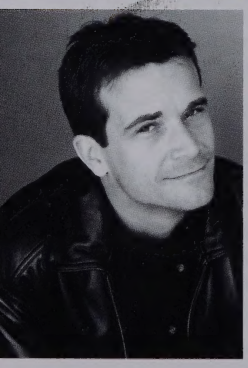
The Mark, the swank downtown club formerly known as Karma, launches its gay Thursday nights with a Pride-themed soiree. DJ David Knapp spins, along with Andre Xcellent. *The Mark Ultralounge, 79 Poplar St. 9 p.m. 678-904-0050, www.themarkatlanta.com*

FRI 06.25

DJ KIO KIO

Out magazine just named him the "hottest reason to dance." Catch Kio Kio (left) as he makes his Atlanta debut. *Blü, 960 Spring St. 10 p.m. $10-$15. 404-877-1221, www.bluatlanta.com*

SAT 06.26



FAHRENHEIT

This all-day event brings DJs Bryan Pfeifer (left), Mac Quayle and Kim Crawford to Park Tavern — a mere stone's throw from festivites in the park. Phoenix, Rubayne Milan, Ms. Chili and a host of other divas add to the carnival atmosphere. *Park Tavern, 500 10th St. Noon-midnight. $10. 404-249-0001.*

SAT 06.26

FUTURE BABYLON TOUR

Imagine the dance club from "Queer As Folk" in the year 2050. DJ Tracy Young spins and the bizarre RKM Futureboys perform. *Blü, 960 Spring St. 10 p.m.-7 a.m. $20-$30. 404-877-1221, www.bluatlanta.com*

STUDIO 54 PARTY

Atlanta's newest all-gay dance club Jungle turns back the clock for a night of classic Disco with DJ Ed Bailey. Best vintage club outfit can win a $50 bar tab. *Jungle, 2115 Faulkner Rd. 10 p.m.-3 a.m. $10 advance, $20 door. 404-844-8800, www.jungleclub.net.*

SUN 06.27

THE POWER OF PRIDE

Red Chair's series of popular Sunday T's (no, it's not a dance, but still a T) moves the party outside, with frozen drinks on the patio and a menu of contests ("Best Tan Line," "Best Body," etc.) *Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge, 550-C Amsterdam Ave. Free. 4:30 p.m.-midnight. 404-870-0532, www.redchairatlanta.com*

2-T FRUITY T-DANCE

Fruitcake Productions, the team behind Scarlet Ball, imports rising star DJ Alyson Calagna for a special girl-powered Pride party. The fun starts immediately after the parade. *Eleven50, 1150 Peachtree St. 4 p.m.-midnight . $20 ($15 with student ID). www.fruitcakeproductions.com.*

PRIDE T-DANCE

Midtown Productions hopes lightning can strike twice at Vision, site of last year's near-capacity Sunday party. L.A. DJ Mark Tarbox returns, Simone Denny performs. *Vision, 1068 Peachtree St. Free before 11 p.m., $10 after. www.midtownproductions.net*

PRIDE CLOSING PARTY

Just when you thought your Backstreet days were through, along comes DJ Susan Morabito, spinning at the official Pride closing event. Hosted by Fruitcake Productions. *Backstreet Atlanta, 845 Peachtree St. Midnight-7 a.m. $20 ($15 with 2-T-Fruity wristband). 404-873-1986, www.backstreetatlanta.com.*

Heaven ....calling all Angels

Girl Party

ATLANTA pride weekend

~ guys welcome ~

Raffle
Benefiting
Atlanta Pride
Committee

Contest ~
Sexiest Angel wins $100

FRIDAY
June 25th
9pm ~ 3am
$20

DJ's
DJ Tre
Yvonne Monet
Kim Crawford

Art Opening
women artist collective
'nigmataochi'

Acoustic Performances
Robin Leigh • Dawn Jackson

Dance Performances
Soiree Dancers

SWÄ-RĀ

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2004 PRIDE! NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

WED 06.23

ARMORY. Flux. Doors open at 9 p.m.
BLAKE'S. The Lust & the Bust, starring Lena Lust, Shawna Brooks and Alexandria Martin, 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke jackpot, 10 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m.
Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke, midnight.
CHAPARRAL. Flamin' Hot Wednesdays with hot bods, go-go boys, contests.
CLUB 708. Open mic night, 10 p.m.
Mini-Ball drag show, 2 a.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with original Men of Jaguar.
COMPOUND. "Initialize" with guest DJ Kaskade.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
HERETIC. Pearl Day closing party. Dress Code night with DJ Rick Walsh.
HOEDOWN'S. Intermediate Two-step dance lessons.
JUNGLE. Chico De La Jungla (Jungle Boy) w/DJ Carlos.
LE BUZZ. "Camp LeBuzz" with Arianna D'Black, 10 p.m.; Men of Menerge dancers, 11 p.m.
METRO. "Class, Ass & Pizzazz" with Maxine Blue starring Feleshia Sapphire, Yanae Van Michaels and special guests. 11:30 p.m. DJ Jones spins Old School and R&B starting at 10 p.m.
MISS Q'S. Pool leagues.
MUSE. Wild Wednesday with $4 specialty martinis and $3 house wine. Music after 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Karaoke, 9 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Smirnoff martini special.
RED CHAIR. Madonna impersonation contest, 8 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRIPPS. Karaoke, 11 p.m.
CLUB JAGUARS. "Banjee Boi" dance party with DJ "M." 10 p.m.-3 a.m.
WETBAR. Femmetini Wednesdays for women.

THU 06.24

BACKSTREET. DJ Bill Berdeaux 12 a.m.-7a.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Karaoke Idol jackpot.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Kitty LeClaw's Meow Mix with Mary Edith Pitts, Martina Diamante, Savannah Leigh and Niesha Dupree.
CANCUN CANTINA. Latin Night.
CLUB 708. Trade Thursdays plus Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Bad Boy Thursday, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Underwear party, 10 p.m.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Karaoke, 10 p.m.
HALO. DJ Brandon Sutton.
HERETIC. Rapture with DJ Rick Walsh 9 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Line dance lessons, Ladies Night
JUNGLE. Eden: Girls' night.
LE BUZZ. Check out this Cobb favorite.
THE MARK. "Work Hard" Pride kickoff party with DJ David Knapp. 9 p.m.
MARY'S. Beat Surrender, 9:30 p.m.
METRO. Atlanta's Hottest Papi Contest hosted by former Mr. Atlanta Latino Alexis Troncoso, 12 p.m. DJ Carlos, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Talent search, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Alternating open-mic and singer-songwriter night.
THE OSCARS. Best of the Oscars videos with VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. "Where the Boyz Are" College Night, 18 and up.
TRIPPS. Country night w/Ron and Mike, 9 p.m.
WETBAR. Threesome Thursdays.
VALS. June Dunaphant plays piano with open mic singers, 7:30 p.m.

FRI 06.25

BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 11 p.m. Bill Berdeaux midnight-7 a.m.
BLAKES. Bingo with Bubba, 7 p.m. Purple costume contest, 11 p.m.
BLU. Pride Kickoff with DJ KioKio, 10 p.m.-7 a.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Out In Country: country music night with free line dance lessons, 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool 4-7 p.m.
Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
CHAPARRAL. International gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys male exotic dancers, 10 p.m. Blackout Fridays.
COLOURS. Hip Hop and R&B night.
HERETIC. DJ John Miller, 9 p.m.
JUNGLE. Atlanta's hottest new dance club.
LE BUZZ. "Dance, Dance, Dance" w/DJ Flea.
MARY'S. Danceteria. 9 p.m.
METRO. "Get Wet with Jayne Russell" and $100 wet jockey contest, 12 a.m. DJ Jason at 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Divas of Illusion, 11 p.m.
MUSE. Live DJ music, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Live music, special events.
THE OSCARS. Martinis, Men & Videos w/VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. The place for the hottest crowd in town.
TRIPPS. Disco night, 9 p.m.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

SAT 06.26

BACKSTREET. Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret, 11 p.m. Rob Reum midnight-7 a.m.
BLAKES. Let's make a Diva Deal, 11 p.m.

Please submit calendar entries no later than 5 p.m. on Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Send your listings to editor@davidatlanta.com

NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

BLU. "Queer as Folk" Future Babylon Tour with DJ Tracy Young, 10 p.m-7 a.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Cabaret and drag fights.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m.
COLOURS. Male revue with Men of Jaguar.
FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE. Laid back lounge.
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh.
JUNGLE. Studio 54 Party with DJ Ed Bailey.
LE BUZZ. LeGirlzz of LeBuzz drag show, 11 p.m.
MARY'S. Karaoke, 10:30 p.m.
METRO. "Las Bugambilias" Latin revue with Italia Franco, Monica Botas, Rebecca Duval at 12 a.m. DJ Martin, 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Model Teez Girlz drag show, 11 p.m.
MUSE. Live DJ music, 10 p.m.
MY SISTERS' ROOM. Dance party.
THE OSCARS. Martinis, Men & Videos w/VJ Das Wright.
RED CHAIR. See what all the talk is about.
SWINGING RICHARDS. 2-4-1 T-Shirt review.
TRAXX. Legendary Traxx Night hip-hop, 10 p.m. Male revue show, third floor, 12 a.m.
VALS. Karaoke, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

RKM Futureboys will perform at Blu on Saturday, June 26 (Russ Youngblood)

SUN 06.27

ARMORY. "Flower Power" frozen drinks, sunshine and special musical guests, 2 p.m.
BACKSTREET. Official Pride Closing party with DJ Susan Morabitō. Midnight 06.28.
BLAKE'S. Blake's Big Time drag review. 9 p.m.
BUDDIES. Morticia DeVille and the Atlanta Gospel Hour, 8:30 p.m.
BURKHART'S. Dinner menu 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Armorettes, 9 p.m.
CANCUN CANTINA. Ladies Night Sunday.
CHAPARRAL. Hip-hop gay night, 10 p.m.
CLUB 708. Social night, open until midnight.
EAGLE. Open until midnight.
ELEVEN50. 2-T Fruity tea dance with DJ Alyson Calaga, 4 p.m.-12 a.m.
HERETIC. DJ Rick Walsh. Open until 3 a.m.
HOEDOWN'S. Line dance lessons, 5-6 p.m.
MODEL T. Café Zone 3 jazz show, 10 p.m.
RED CHAIR. Sunday T with DJ Derrick Shaw.
VISION. The T-Dance II with DJ Mark Tarbox

MON 06.28

BLAKE'S. Neighborhood Party with free buffet from 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Drag Races 11 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool.
BUDDIES. Free pool until 8 p.m.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Third Street Boys exotic dancers.
COLOURS. Male revue talent night, 11:30 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. DJ Kenny Mitchell 9 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Free pool and $3 margaritas.
METRO. Industry Night with DJ Gates.
NICKIEMOTO'S. Dragamaki w/Bubba D. Licious, Martina Diamante and guests. 8:45 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Service industry night, 9 p.m.
TRAXX. Stars of the Century female illusion show, doors open 10:30 p.m.
WETBAR. 5 p.m.-3 a.m.

TUE 06.29

BLAKE'S. Twisted Tuesdays. 10 p.m.
THE BREAKING POINT. Free pool & game night.
BULLDOGS. Old school, NYC and Chicago house, R&B and hip hop.
BURKHART'S. Free pool, 4-7 p.m. Dinner menu 5:30-9 p.m. Karaoke w/Kitty LeClaw, midnight.
CLUB 708. Oldies & Goodies night '70s and '80s hip-hop and R&B, 10 p.m.
COLOURS. Customer appreciation night, 8 p.m.
EAGLE. Free pool.
HERETIC. Free pool and darts 7-10 p.m.
HOEDOWNS. Two-step dance lessons, 8 p.m.
LE BUZZ. Karaoke w/Alexandria Martin.
MARY'S. Mary-oke, 10 p.m.
METRO. Newcomers "Caras Nuevas Show" with Mama Mia, 12 p.m. DJ Martin's Latin House at 10 p.m.
MODEL T. Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
THE OSCARS. Showtune Tuesday.
RED CHAIR. Dinner and a Movie, 7:30 p.m.
SWINGING RICHARDS. No cover before 10 p.m.
TRAXX. Thugged Out Tuesday Night hip-hop, doors open 11 p.m.
VAL'S. Ladies Night.

NIGHTLIFEMAP&DIRECTORY

1. **ARMORY**
836 Juniper St. / 404-881-9280
2. **BACKSTREET ATLANTA**
845 Peachtree St. / 404-873-1986
3. **BLAKE'S ON THE PARK**
227 10th St. / 404-892-5786
4. **BLÜ**
960 Spring St. / 404-877-1221
5. **BUDDIES**
2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd. / 404-634-5895
6. **BULLDOGS**
893 Peachtree St. / 404-872-3025
7. **BURKHART'S**
1492-F Piedmont Ave. (Ansley Sq.)
404-872-4403
8. **COMPOUND**
1008 Brady Ave. / 404-872-4621
9. **JUNGLE**
2115 Faulkner Rd. / 404-844-8800
10. **COLOURS**
1492-B Piedmont Ave. (Ansley Sq.)
404-724-0611
11. **EAGLE**
308 Ponce De Leon Ave. / 404-873-2453
12. **FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE**
1510-G Piedmont Rd. (Ansley Sq.)
404-249-7899
13. **HALO**
617 W. Peachtree St / 404-962.7333
14. **HERETIC**
2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd. / 404-325-3061
15. **HOEDOWNS**
931 Monroe Dr. / 404-876-0001
16. **LE BUZZ**
585 Franklin Rd, Marietta / 770-424-1337
17. **MARY'S**
1287 Glenwood Ave. / 404-624-4411
18. **METRO**
1080 Peachtree St. / 404-874-9869
19. **MISS Q'S**
560 Amsterdam Ave. / 404-875-6255
20. **MODEL-T**
699 Ponce de Leon Ave. / 404-872-2209
21. **MY SISTERS' ROOM**
222 East Howard Ave. / 404-370-1990
22. **NEW ORDER**
1544 Piedmont Rd (Ansley Mall)
404-874-8247
23. **OPUS ONE**
1086 Alco St. / 404-634-6478
24. **THE OSCAR'S**
1510-C Piedmont Ave. (Ansley Sq.)
404-874-7748
25. **THE PALACE**
91 Broad St. / 404-522-3000
26. **PHOENIX**
567 Ponce de Leon Ave. / 404- 892-7871
27. **RED CHAIR**
550-C Amsterdam / 404-870-0532
28. **SWINGING RICHARDS**
1400 Northside Dr. / 404-352-0532
29. **TOWER II**
735 Ralph McGill Blvd. / 404-523-1535
30. **TRAXX**
306 Luckie St. / 404-681-4252
31. **TRIPPS**
1931 Piedmont Cir. / 404-724-0067
32. **VALS**
3701 Lawrenceville Hwy., Tucker
770-938-0567
33. **WETBAR**
960 Spring St. / 404-877-1221
34. **WOOFS**
2425 Piedmont Rd. / 404-869-9422

METRO

Friday June 25

GET Wet

with
JAYNE RUSSELL
Wet Jockey Contest
$100 Prize
music by DJ JASON

sponsored by
Midtown Productions
1stClassCompanions.com

OPEN PRIDE SUNDAY!

Monday June 28

INDUSTRY NIGHT

Show proof of industry employment to receive VIP Card & giveaways!

Special Show @ Midnight!

music by
DJ
GATES

Wed June 30

MAXINE BLUE

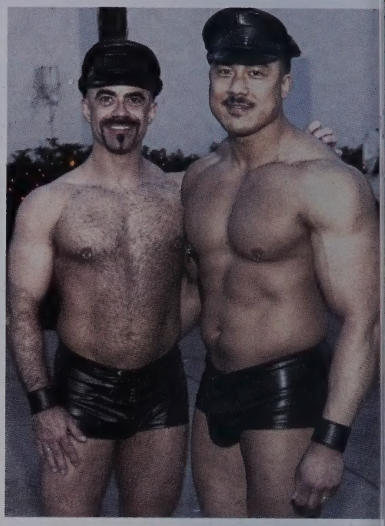
Maxine Blue's
URBAN SPIN
Hip Hop R&B Old School
music by DJ JONES
"Class, Ass & Pizzazz Show"
with Feleshia Sapphire
Yanae Van Michaels

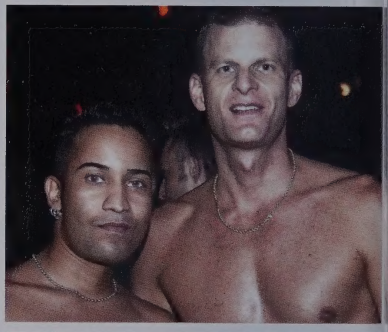
NOW HIRING DANCERS

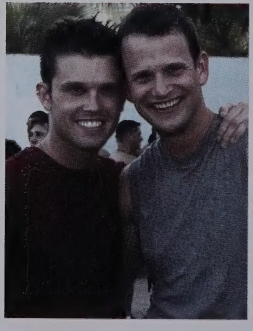
METRO
1080 Peachtree
404.874.9869

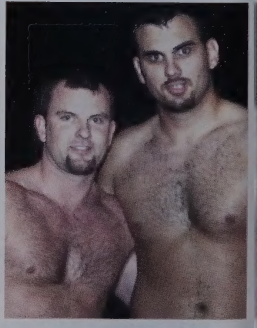
Join Kelly "Mary" O'Brien (Atlanta's Absolutly Insane Bartender), Louie Spetrini, and Sal for Happy Hour M-Sat 3-10pm

SEEN@GAY DAYS MAGIC JOURNEYS AT ARABIAN NIGHTS

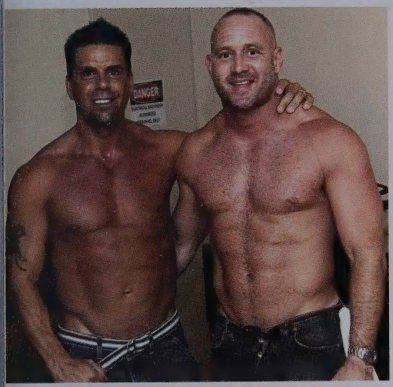


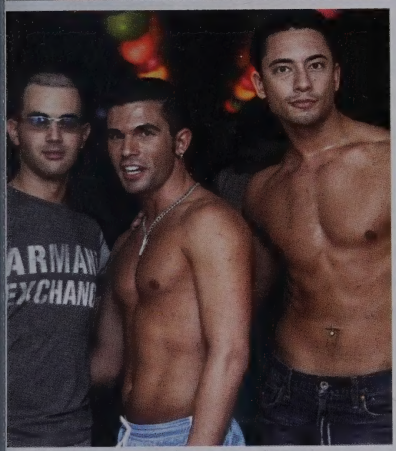






PHOTOS: R. YOUNGBLOOD





Atlanta's Best Latin DJs

Saturday June 26

¡CALIENTE!

"Las BUGAMBILIAS"
Revue with Italia Franco
Monica Botas
Rebecca Duval

music by
DJ MARTÍN

Tuesday June 29

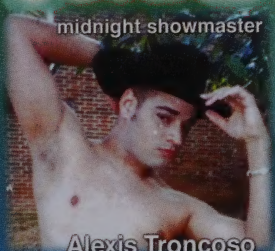
LATIN HOUSE

music by
DJ MARTÍN

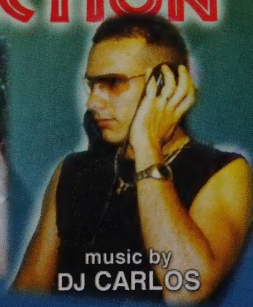
"CARAS NUEVAS"
Newcomer Revue with Mama Mia

Thursday July 1

LATIN CONNECTION



midnight showmaster
Alexis Troncoso
and guests



music by
DJ CARLOS

$1.75 DRAFT ALWAYS

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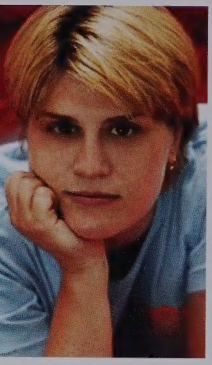
Join Kelly "Mary" O'Brien (Atlanta's Absolutly Insane Bartender), Louie Spetrini, and Sal for Happy Hour M-Sat 3-10pm

A tale of two T-dances



Post-parade partiers have a choice: Alyson Calagna at eleven50 or Mark Tarbox at Vision. How they compare ...

DJ ALYSON CALAGNA

APPEARING: 2-T-Fruity T-Dance Sunday, June 27, eleven50 *Presented by Fruitcake Productions*

HOMEBASE: Ft. Lauderdale

RESIDENCIES: None

DAY JOB: Full-time DJ

PREFERRED STYLE: Tribal and Drums

BACKGROUND: Alyson was first exposed to house music as a teenager living in Aberdeen, Scotland. After her father took an oil-industry job in Lafayette, La., Alyson's interest in spinning took off at a local teen club there. As her DJ skills improved, she climbed the ranks, won several DJ spin-offs in the Southeast, and eventually landed a popular dance format show for Miami's WPOW-FM 96.5. In 2000 she returned to home ground and held court at New Orleans' venerable 735 Nightclub. She's since been a fixture on the East Coast scene and is soaring in popularity on the national party circuit.

STRENGTHS: Generally she's at her best spinning pool parties or long after-hour events. But Calagna hasn't done a tea dance in a while, and they generally have a different vibe than her usual scene. Expect her to pull out a few repertoire surprises in Atlanta.

CDS: *Party Groove: A Weekend At Oz* (Centaur) *Party Groove: Blue Ball Vol. 2* (Centaur) *Party Groove: Motorball 3* (Centaur)

PREVIOUS ATLANTA APPEARANCES: Fusion, Change of Seasons, Blü

PARTY PERKS: A wristband from 2-T-Fruity gets you $5 off the closing party at Backstreet.
www.fruitcakeproductions.com

DJ MARK TARBOX

APPEARING: Pride T-Dance Sunday, June 27, Vision *Presented by Midtown Productions*

HOMEBASE: Los Angeles

RESIDENCIES: New York (SBNY), Los Angeles (Red Eye, Here), and San Francisco (Ruby Skye)

DAY JOB: Production Supervisor for Animation at DreamworksSKG

PREFERRED STYLE: House and Vocals

BACKGROUND: Mark bought his first dance records while growing up in Massachusetts, and he had his first exposure to the decks in his late teens and early 20s at Boston clubs Twelve and Campus. Not long after, New York beckoned, and Mark landed important gigs on Fire Island and at the Saint-at-Large parties held at the legendary Roxy. In the mid 1990s, Mark switched coasts and became the resident at Probe in Los Angeles. His sound well established, Mark has since manned the helm at circuit parties throughout the country.

STRENGTHS: He's a veteran with after-hour clubs, but Tarbox got his first break in the business at John Whyte's Pavilion, a Fire Island club that's mythic to the disco era — and is the ancestral home of tea dances. Expect a solid performance when he hits Atlanta.

CDS: None

PREVIOUS ATLANTA APPEARANCES: Hotlanta, Blü, Pride 2003

PARTY PERKS: The Vision event is free before 11 p.m.
www.midtownproductions.net

FROM FRUITCAKE PRODUCTIONS

PRIDE TEA DANCE . SUNDAY, JUNE 27

2-T FRUITY

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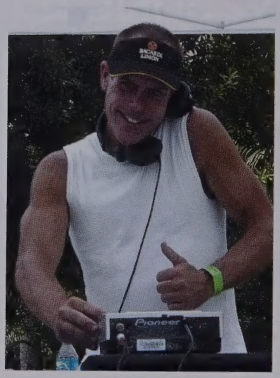

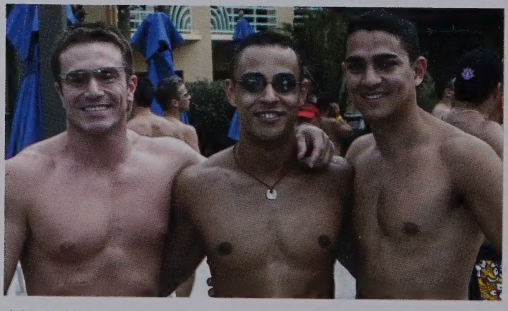

PHOTOS: R. YOUNGBLOOD

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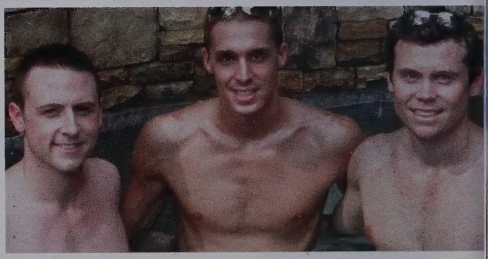

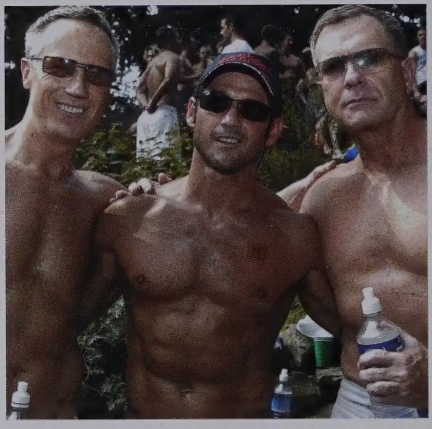

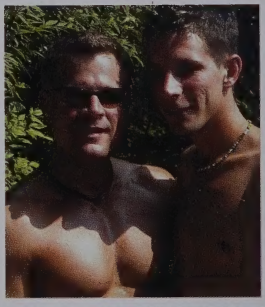

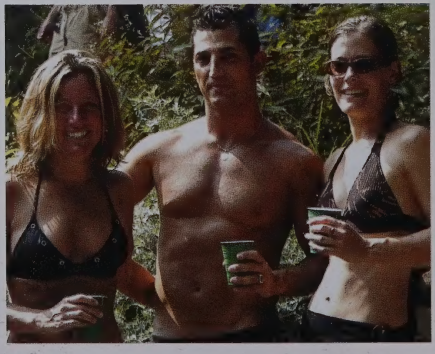

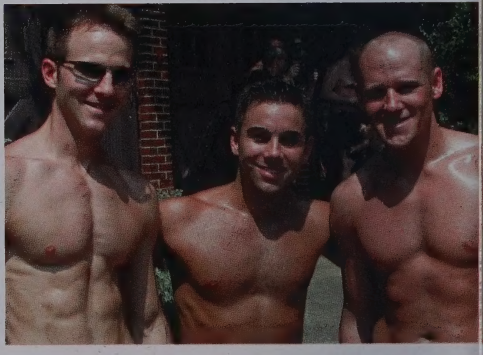

PHOTOS: R. YOUNGBLOOD AND A. MALACAF

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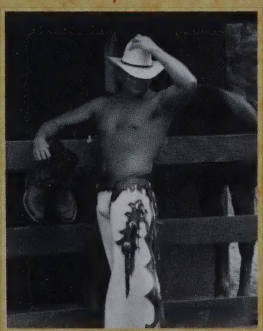

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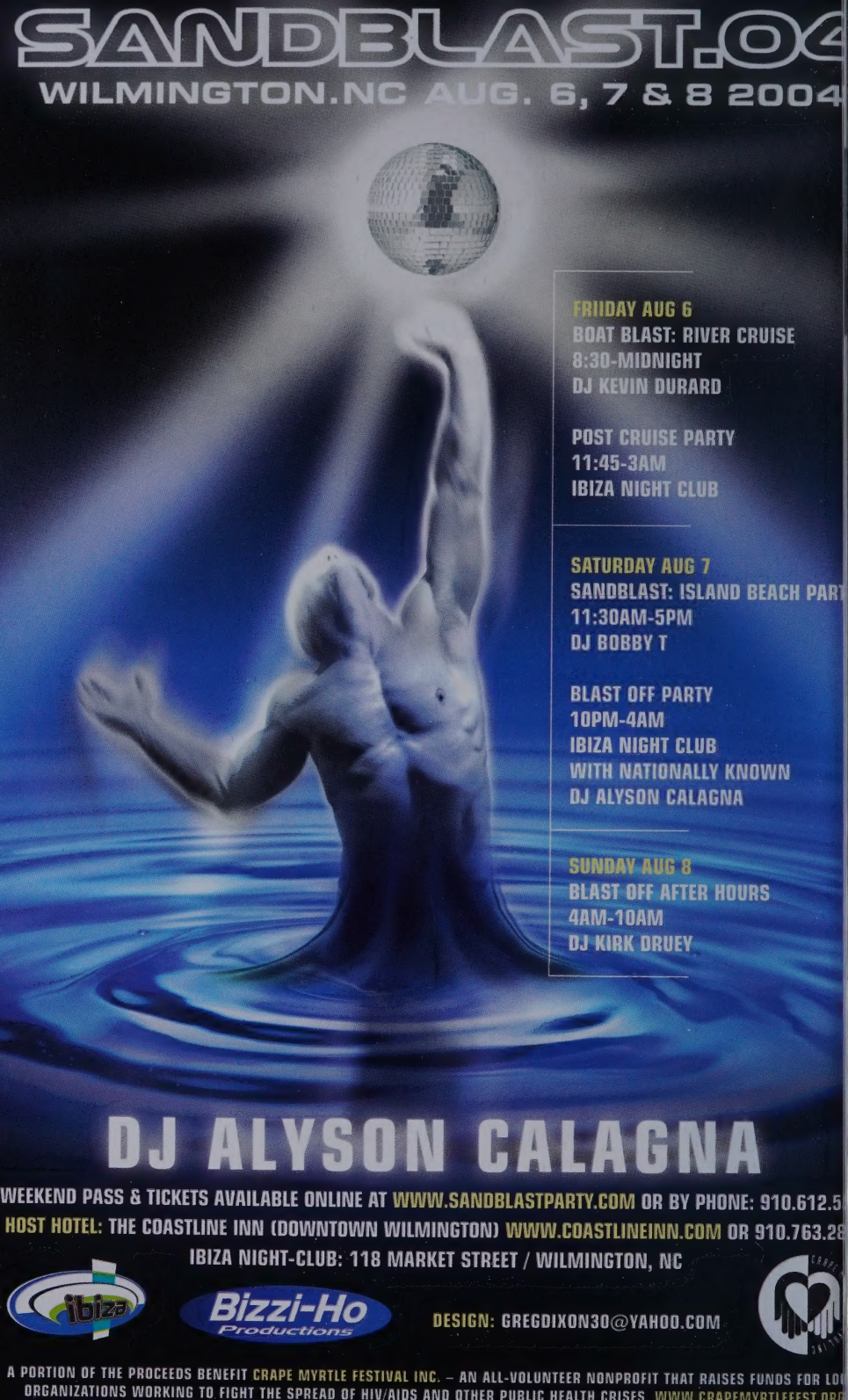

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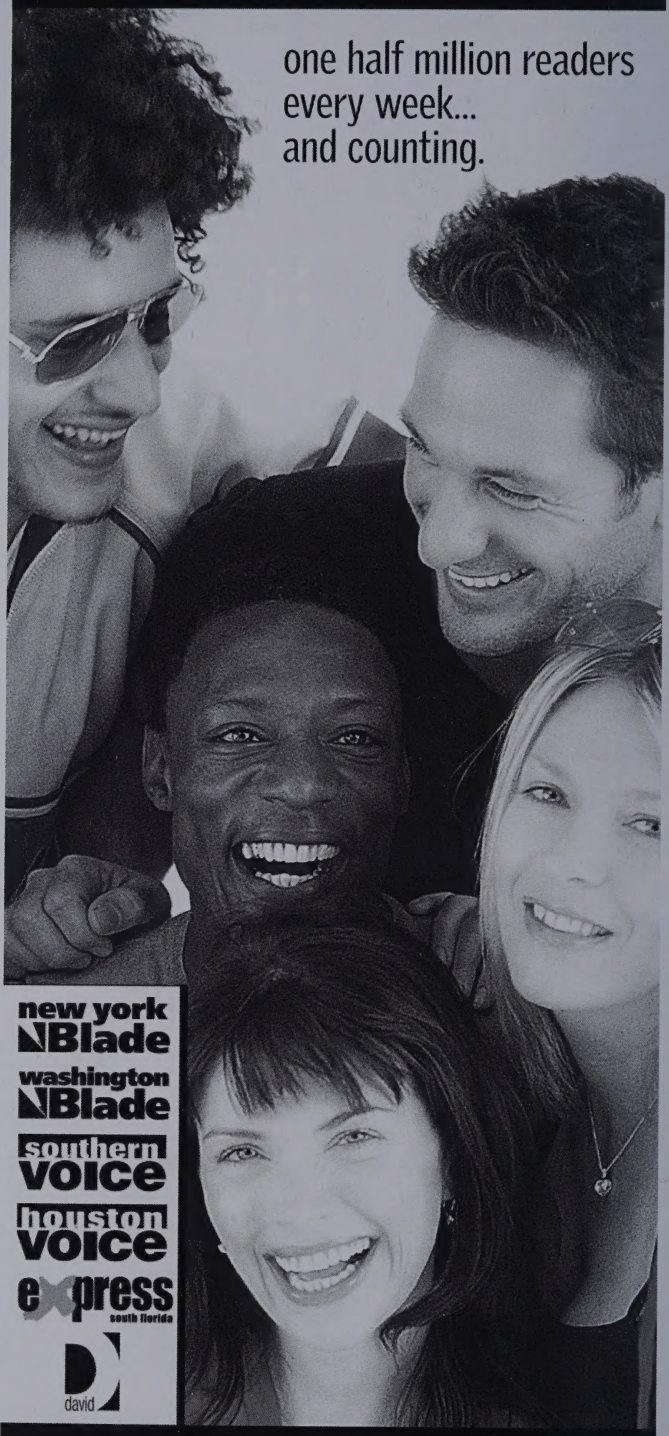

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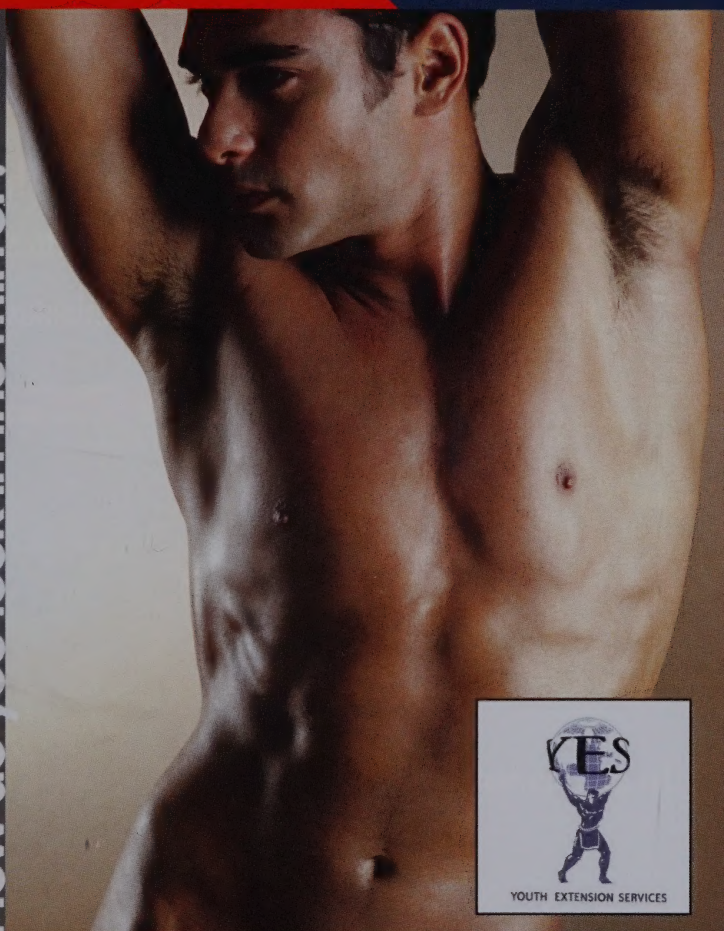

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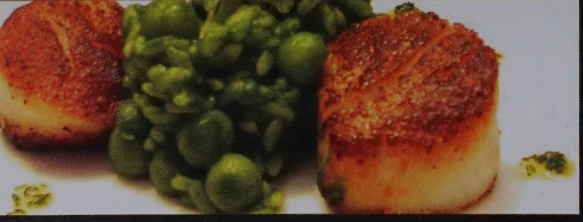

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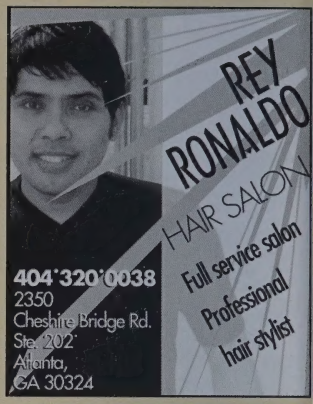

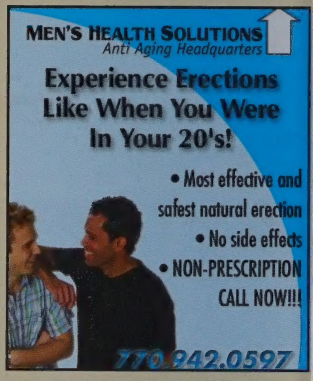

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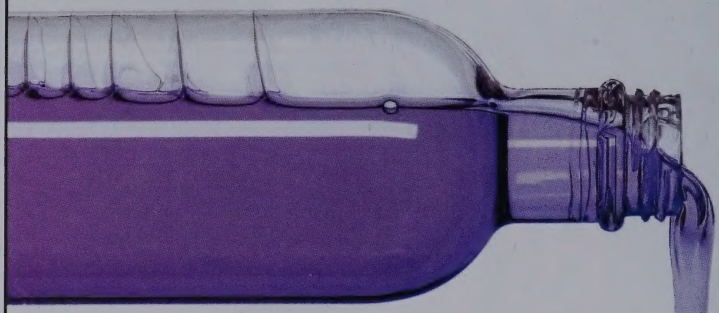

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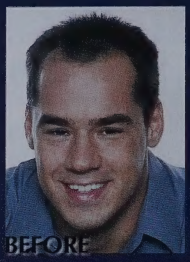

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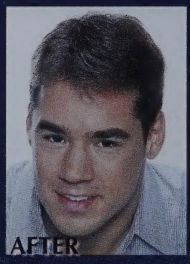

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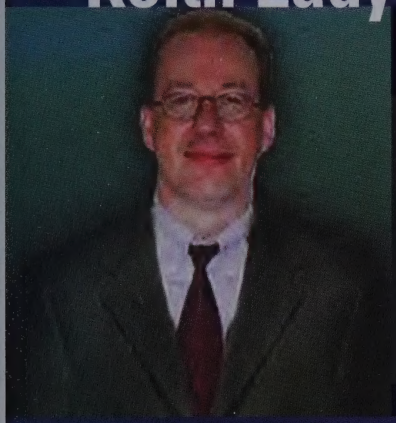

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SIGN AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGES TWO AND THREE, AND WE'RE IN BUSINESS.
HOLD ON A MINUTE.
YOU "JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE THE CONTRACT"... RIGHT NEXT TO THE BED?
WHAT IS THIS, LANCE? HAVE YOU BEEN SLEEPING WITH ME... TO GET ME TO DO YOUR NEXT AD CAMPAIGN?!
I PREFER TO LOOK AT IT AS KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.
WHAT?!
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY MEN WOULD DROP EVERYTHING IN THEIR LIVES TO BE WITH ME... MAX EDGINGTON?
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YOU REALLY NEED TO GET OVER YOUR OWN LEGENDARY STATUS, MAX.
THAT MAY CARRY WEIGHT IN THE FASHION WORLD, BUT IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME IN THE BEDROOM.
OH? YOU HAVE COMPLAINTS ABOUT MY PERFORMANCE IN BED?
NOT AT ALL.
BUT HOW MANY VOGUE COVERS YOU'VE SHOT IS IRRELEVANT TO ME WHEN WE'RE UNDER THE SHEETS.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, LANCE?
TO BE PERFECTLY BLUNT...
...I PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE SLEPT WITH YOU IF THERE WASN'T THE UNDERLYING MOTIVE TO LAND YOU FOR THE AD CAMPAIGN. YOU'RE NOT REALLY MY TYPE.
THAT PROBABLY HURTS... BUT I WOULD THINK YOU'D APPRECIATE THE STRATEGIC--
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THE ART OF THE BJ, PART TWO

This week: The Bob, the Tain't and the Sloppy Diamond

HEY WOODY!

Last week you talked about the basics of giving head. But what about those of us who passed BJ 101, oh, about 10 years ago. How about some more advanced techniques?

— Orally fixated

DEAR FIXATED:

There are BJ do's and BJ don'ts. Let's start with the don'ts. Never tell your partner, as Mink Stole did in a classic John Waters film, "I wouldn't suck your lousy dick if I was suffocating and there was oxygen in your balls."

Trust me when I say that move won't get you anywhere. Here's what will:

PRESSURE POINT PRICKS

You're kneeling between his legs. You spread his legs apart but with his knees bent toward his chest. You hold his dick in your wet mouth, bobbing gently while your hands find the middle of his hamstring muscles. Gently press one or two fingers into each hamstring. Move the pressure point to the left and right and press. Gently at first and then with increasing pressure (but never enough to hurt). It's an incredible sensation.

You can also do that with the strip of flesh called the perineum or "Tain't" (cuz it tain't your ass and it tain't your dick.)

THE CRESCENDO

Lightly brush your hair against his body. It'll feel like feathers. Start with the chest and work your way down to his crotch. Then go down the side of his thighs, even to his calves. Work your way up to his crotch again. Dangle dangle on his dingle dangle.

Now take the head of his cock in your mouth. Don't go a-bobbing yet. Just keep his cock in your mouth till he acclimatizes to the warmth and moisture. Now slowly start the "Basic Bob" — going up and down. With your mouth only. Slowly. Now do the Basic Bob with the "OK" sign. Put your finger to your thumb and wrap it around the base. Move it up and down along with your mouth. Very gently, smoothly. After about a minute wrap your whole hand around his cock. Make your hand an extension of your mouth. Quicken the Bob, tighten the grip. Now add a twist of the hand as it comes up and down the head of his cock. Go faster and faster and grip tighter and tighter.

It's critical to bathe the head of his cock with spit each time your hand reaches the top. A word about lubrication, whether it's spit or lube: Too much is never enough. Done right, the crescendo gets most men to "dump the spunk" in just a few minutes.

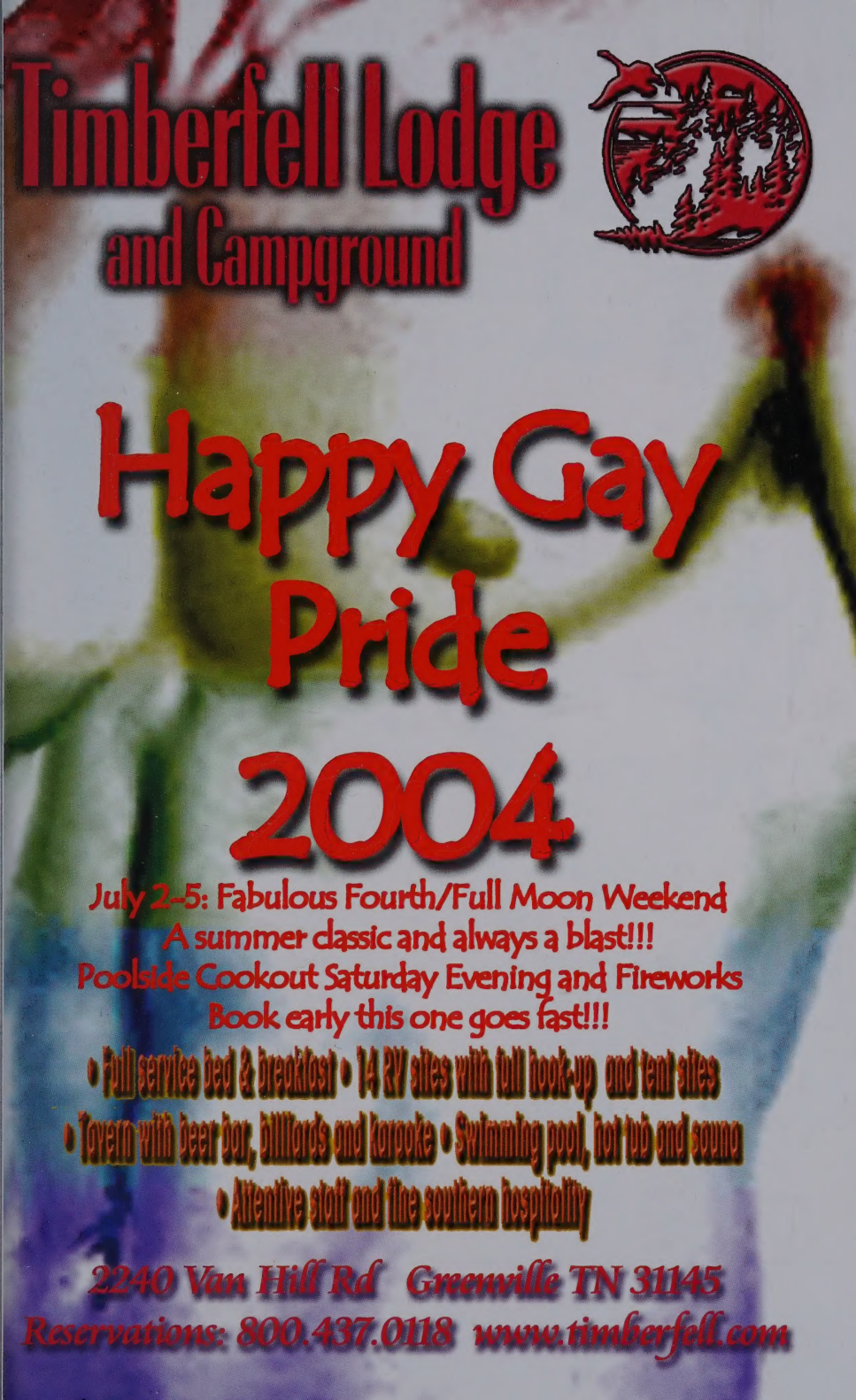
THE SLOPPY DIAMOND

Put your partner on his back at the edge of the bed where you can kneel and have access to his whole body. Picture a line drawn from his cock to his right nipple to his mouth to his left nipple and back to his cock. That's the diamond path your mouth will travel.

Start by sucking the head of his cock gently, maybe two or three bobs then go to his right nipple and suck on it 2-3 times. Then go for his mouth and give him 2-3 very wet kisses. Following the diamond line go to his left nipple and back to his cock.

What'll really make him grab the sheets is when you start varying how you go down the diamond path of his hot zones. For instance, going from his cock to his mouth back and forth, ignoring his nipples. The inability to predict builds anticipation. So be unpredictable. While traveling down the diamond path with your mouth, your hands are free to double his pleasure. You can, for example, put a left-hand finger in his mouth while stroking his balls with your right. While kissing him you could caress his face. While sucking on his nipples you could stroke his inner thighs. Either way he's going to go radioactive with pleasure.

Woody is the author of Men Are Pigs But We Love Bacon. *He can be reached at needwood@comcast.net*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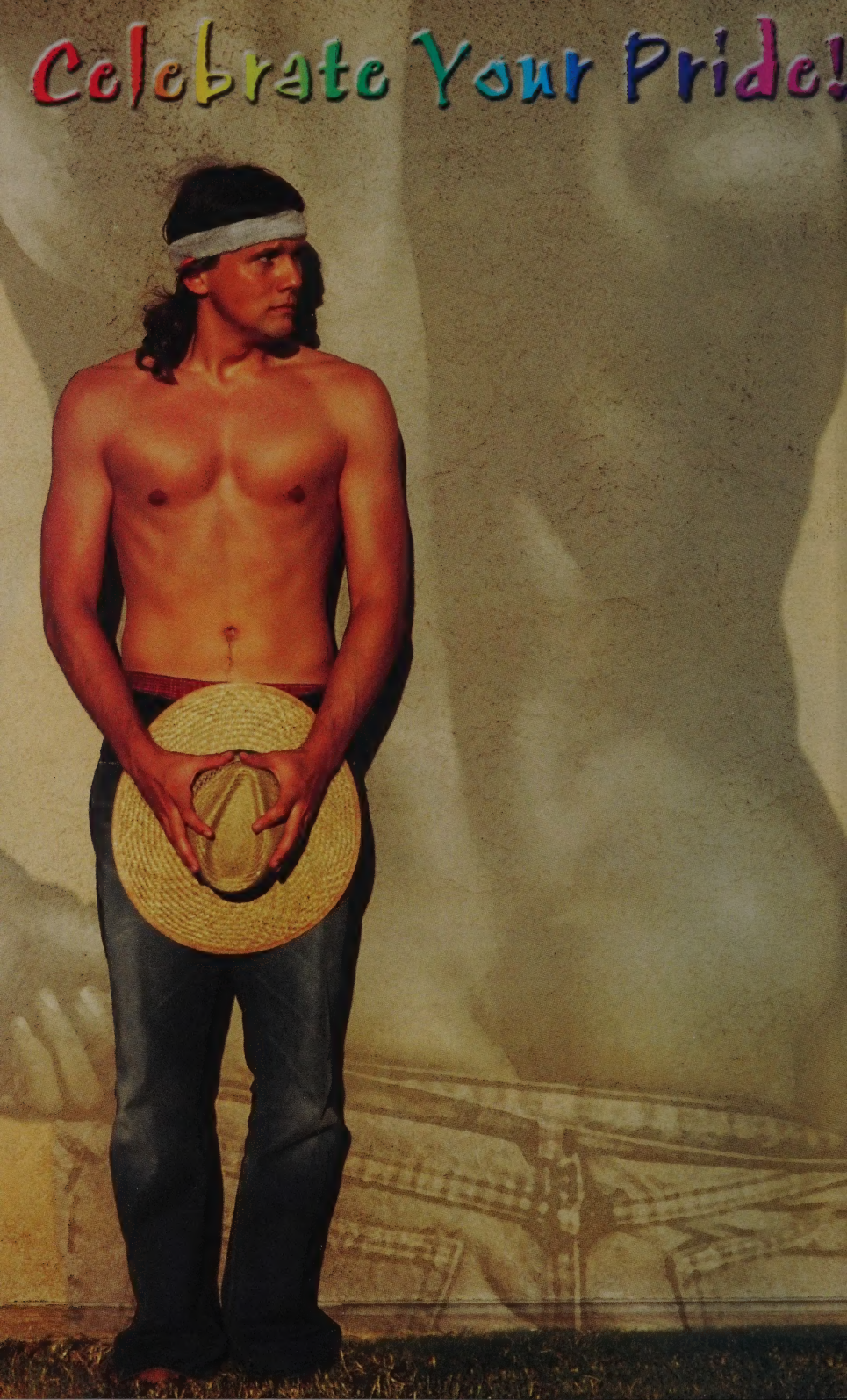
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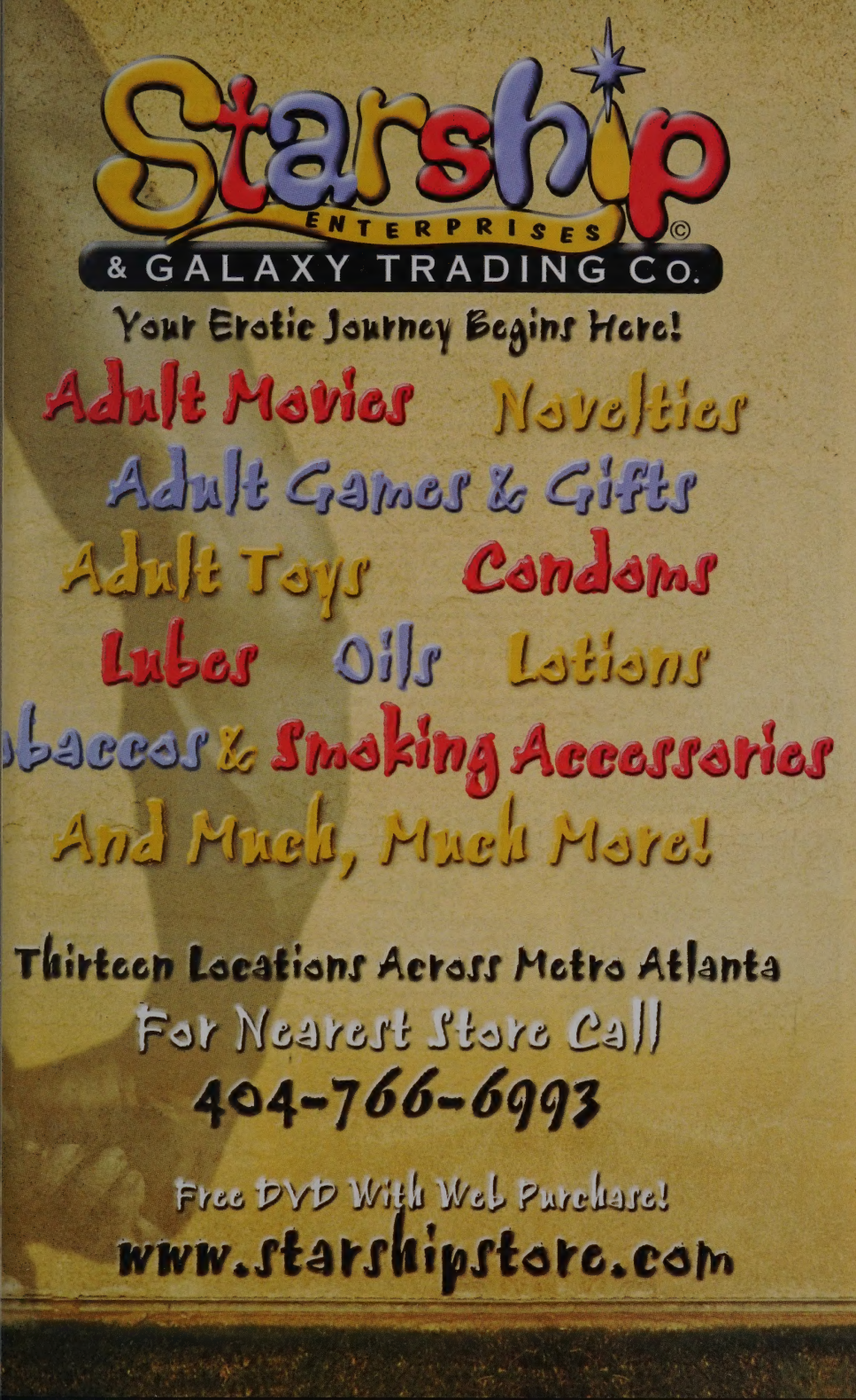
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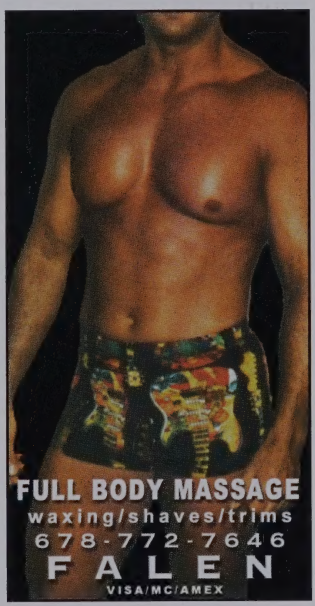

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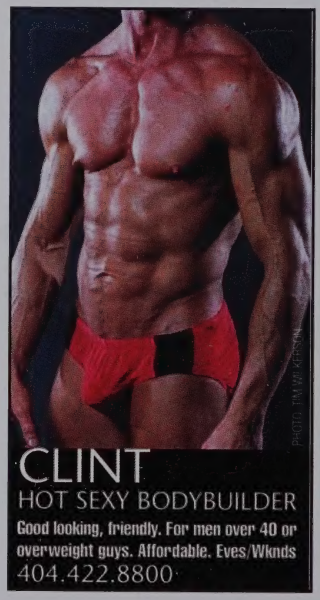

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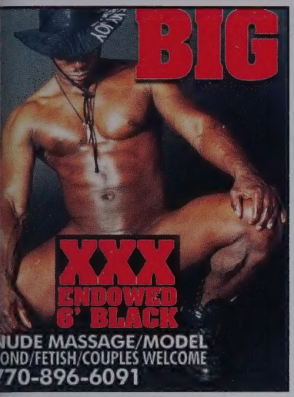

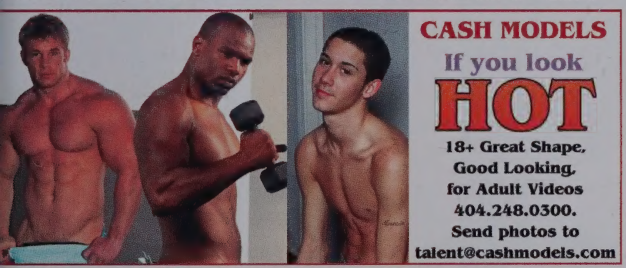

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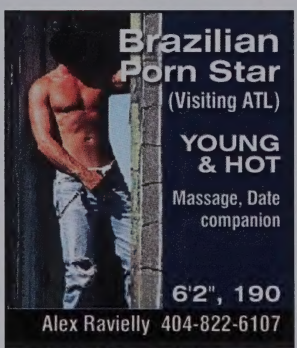

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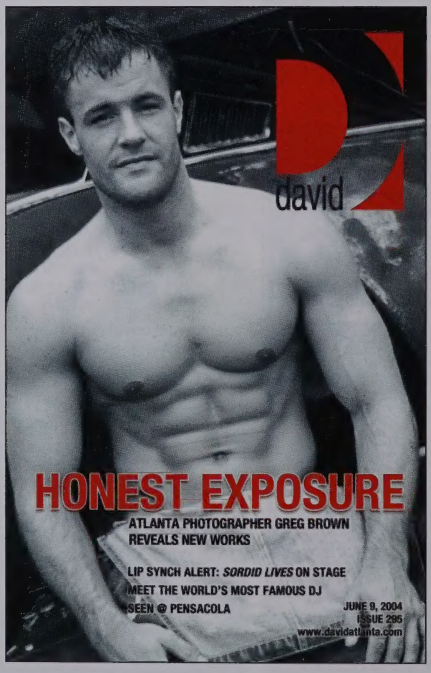

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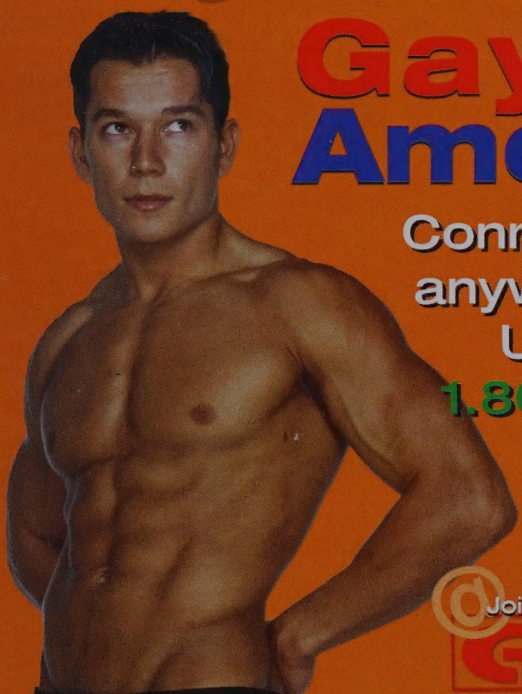

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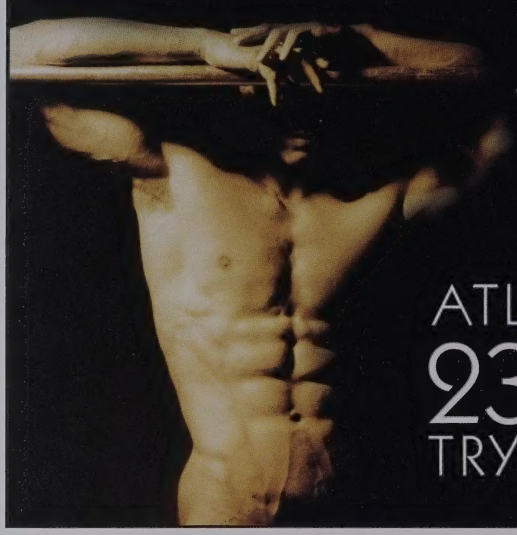

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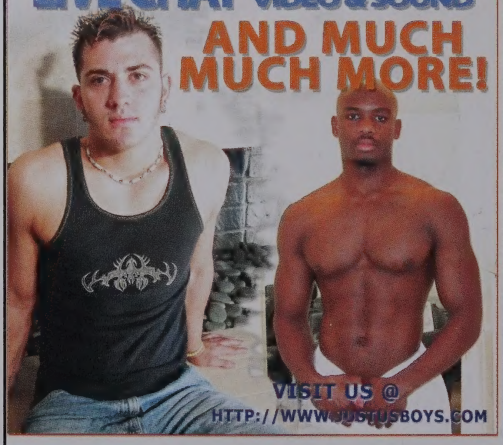

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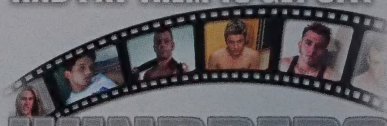

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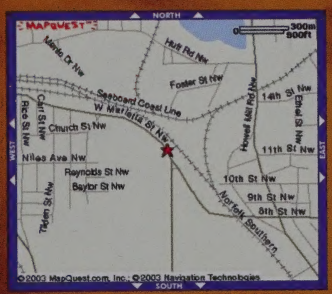

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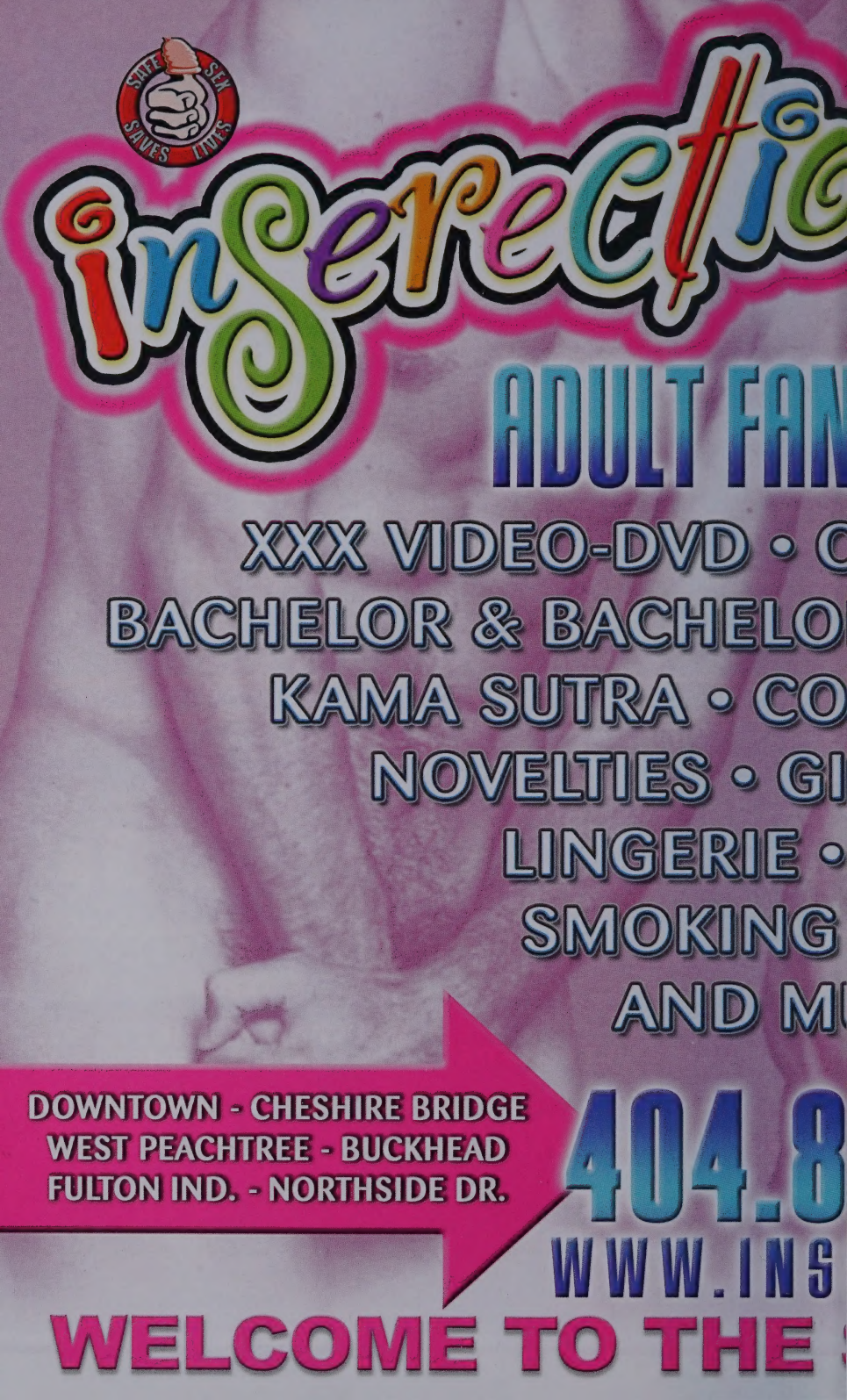
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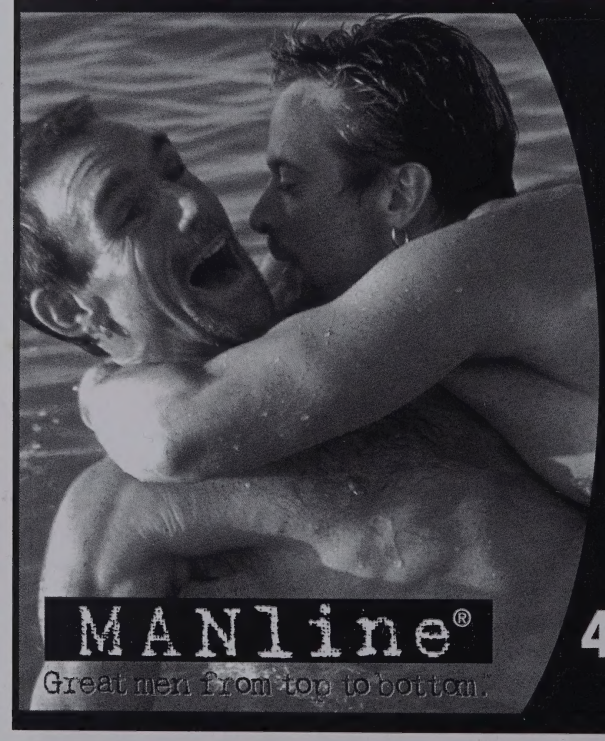

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BITCHSESSION

Why in the world do gays have a bug up their butt about Christian gays? We're not out to recruit you for the spiritual life; we're here to be friends with you.

To those of you with a lover who was married before: Stop thinking they will go back to that life. Most of us are so done with the straight life that we ain't going back and we ain't going to keep defending ourselves for our past.

Let's end this once and for all: As a police officer, bicycles on sidewalks and spitting in the street are not only violations of the law but disrespectful to those around you. Please stop pointing fingers at others and learn how to act.

To a certain adolescent, speed queen who obviously isn't getting it enough: There is no shame in my game! And dare I say it, yes, in fact, this milkshake does taste much better than yours. Not my fault you're all bitter and sour 'cause there are no boys in your yard.

If you want a partner, you won't find him by tricking in the bars, and don't get pissy when you get put on the street afterward just cuz h was smart enough to know the pitfalls of picking up bar trash!

What's the deal about not dating disabled gay people? We're great people. Don't let us scare you.

It breaks my heart to hear a very attractive guy whine that he can't get a date because others are afraid to approach him. Poor baby!

It's unbelievable that a certain bar charges customers $4 for a domestic beer but can't afford or won't install a ventilation system for secondhand smoke. I used to think "live and let live," but now I'm ready to join the smoking ban advocates.

To the guy who said that the buzz cut and goatee look is over: I am 35, 6-foot-2, 220-pounds, balding, buzz cut, goatee and glasses, and I get hit on all the time — and from hot men, too. Don't be so quick to judge!

Buzzed/bald and goatees are out? I'm guessing you're a long-haired, limp-wristed, lisping thing that can't get a man. Sucks to be you.

To the captain of the "look police" who bitched about "the troll" at his gym: I'm so tired of you guys who talk about winners and losers or guys who are in or out of your league. The only league you're in is the swelled-headed jerks' league.

If you're gonna bring your straight friends into the club, please explain to them that it's not acceptable to shove us "fags" aside at the bar. Gay-friendly, my ass!

To the guy complaining about cruising at his gym: Which gym is it? I'm joining!

Gay Republicans know exactly what they are doing when they vote for hate-spewing candidates who work to undermine our rights. They just don't care so long as they get a tax break.

To the person who feels a "smoke-free" environment in clubs and bars would be "healthier": Honey, you didn't look so "healthy after sucking down those five Long Island Iced Teas and three shots of Cuervo.

Newsflash! HIV can still kill you. The current treatments don't work for everyone. It's true that having HIV today is not a death sentence; it's more of a crapshoot. So don't throw away the condoms, but also don't assume you're going to outlive someone just because he is positive.

To the jerk who tells everyone he's in a five-year monogamous relationship and then to his partner's surprise lets a stranger undress him right in front of his lover: I say he should've dumped you a long time ago. You need to learn the true meaning of monogamy before you use someone else.

It's beginning to sound to me like the trolls out there are the only ones having any fun. Somebody find me a bridge to live under!

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